



## ***Area Representative Reports to the 2023 AGM***

### **Wales and Northwest Area**

Sides in the Northwest & Wales seem to be holding on, with a trickle of new members to sustain them. Poor numbers and ageing dancers mean fewer paid bookings, and consequent financial constraints, which I'm sure is the case elsewhere in the UK.

September saw a successful JMO regional Day of Dance in the delightful city of Chester. It was disappointing that only two Open Morris sides attended, which I attributed partly to OM's exclusion from helping with organising the event. It was difficult to promote an event to local sides, without knowing anything about it. Those that were there thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Maybe it could become a regular event?

***Nicki Pickering***

Wales and Northwest Area Rep

*November 2023*

### **Central Area**

The central area continues to be a busy and morris-rich place, with teams by and large thriving, though recruitment is an ever-present problem.

Sadly, as I've mentioned elsewhere, Shinfield Shambles have disbanded this year. They were my first team when I was a kid and my life would have been a very different without them – the area will certainly be different, but the team are looking forward to one last celebratory dinner in the new year.

On a happier note, I'd like to welcome Mr Hemmings Traditional Abingdon Morris to OM, they're a grand team, and old friends of mine, who have very recently joined us.

***Jen Cox***

Central Area Rep

*November 2023*

## **Central South Area**

As usual I have failed to get to the Isle of Wight to meet the sides there in person. The good news is that I have contacted Whitgar Morris and they are practicing, probably dancing out over the Christmas period and wassailing in January. Guith Morris are still going but are struggling to get younger members to join them. An experience shared by my own side, Devil's Jumps. Mr. Baker's Dozen appear to be thriving having enjoyed a busy summer programme on and off the Island. The bad news is that Bloodstone Border Morris have stopped dancing following their AGM in October.

Meanwhile back on the mainland, Devil's Jumps still have musician issues but have been joined by two new dancers. We have not been able to attend any local festivals but have continued to perform at small local events. Meon Valley Morris on the other hand are as busy as they were before Covid.

***Clare Mach***

South Central Area Rep

*November 2023*