

Open Morris AGM 2024

Officer Nominations

| Position | Candidate | Nominated by | Seconded by |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chair | Jen Cox | Theale Tattoo | Tatters Morris |
| Membership Secretary | Chris Bevington | Tatters Morris | Bunnies from Hell |
| Secretary | Hetty Bevington | Tatters Morris | Theale Tattoo |
| Treasurer | Liz Scholey | Iron Spring Morris | Nicki Pickering |
| Web Officer | Malcolm Hills | Wharfedale Wayzgoose | Borderline Morris |

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've been out of dancing action for much of this year with an injury, but I've still been playing my whistles, organising events, and enjoying festivals with all my teams.

Outside of OM, I organise the dance events for Wallingford BunkFest, a wonderful community festival in Oxfordshire, and I am the Treasurer for Oxford's long running and brilliant ceilidh series. I'm also part of the plucky group of volunteers organising the new Oxford Folk Festival.

Since December 2023 I have been working for 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 – 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 have just helped to form a new side, Iron Spring Morris, OM, last year.

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 managed to significantly reduce the number of cheques issued. The officers are now able to transfer money from the bank account but the safeguard of requiring two officers to authorise payments remains in place.

I am standing again for the last time.

Liz Scholey
Tunbridge Wells
Liz@danceon.org

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 return to the role following a break due to life changing health issues.

Malcolm Hills

