

TVMM LOG 2016

Tuesday, January 5. Twelfth Night Shenanigans at The Willoughby Arms, Kingston.

TVMM swapped their first scheduled practice night of 2016 for a brilliant evening in a packed large room at The Willoughby, organised by Ewell MM, who provided a Lord of Misrule. Dancers and musicians from Black Swan, Box Hill, Ewell, Kingston, Phoenix, Roosters and TVMM filled the room and enthusiastically joined in with the dancing, party games, singing, music, and reminiscing about the good old days. It was sometimes hard to tell where the dances ended and the crowd began, but nobody minded - the excellent Twickenham Ales flowed and the star-struck publican laid on some excellent (and free) mulled cider at the end of the evening. Ewell danced Gustav's dance with Eric the musician dancing, and Kevin played - wonderful. The only losers were the car drivers (including John Walsh).

Weekend, January 15-17. Morris Ring Jigs Instructional.

John Walsh attended the Ring Jigs Instructional in Sutton Bonnington near Loughborough. Along with about 35 other men he was intensively drilled in the jigs of seven traditions - Ascott-under-Wychwood, Bampton, Bledington, Fieldtown, Headington, Oddington and Sherborne. Some 25 different jigs in all. Phew! And no, he doesn't remember them all - there are notes. The teaching was provided by Geoff Jerram and Ian Nichols of Winchester MM, Alan Chetwood of Greensleeves and Tony Ashley of Anker MM (who learned his Oddington from Jim Brooks in 1981). The organisation was most impressive, especially the catering provided by a team mostly from Winchester. Being a Ring event there was, of course, a feast on Saturday night complete with a top table accommodating one current and two past Ring squires and the Ring bagman. The dancing was fun though!

Friday, January 29. The Bagman's Night Out. Eleven men and eight guests enjoyed a friendly meal at The Wheatsheaf, Esher. The food, wine and service were excellent – by taking orders in advance the Wheatsheaf were able to serve all nineteen of us virtually simultaneously. No speeches, music or dancing, but plenty of lively conversation. Those present were John and Linda Walsh, Jim and Cheryl Barclay, John Petts, Chris and Karen Stokes, Sam Allo and Emma, Mick Jenkins, John Elkins, Fran and Jan Smith, Dick Keen, Annie Stanley, Paul and Meera Winder, Phil Mundy and Lesley.

Saturday, February 20. The Peacock Centre, Woking The Woking (Sam Beare) Hospice asked us to dance at their fundraiser at the Peacock Centre, on what turned out to be a drizzly morning. A large TVMM contingent of John Walsh, John Hare, Dick Keen, Paul Winder, Chris Stokes, John Elkins, John Petts, Phil Turner, Mike Vardy, Jim Barclay, Barry Irwin and Julia Jacs entertained a sparse crowd, the hospice helpers and Michael Aspel.

Saturday, February 20. Kennet Ale. Yet another happy evening at the scout hall in Bracknell with Kennet MM and their other guests. There were chocolate coated sprouts (weren't there?) pickled onions and other delights before we got on to the meal itself. Plenty of dancing and singing from TVMM with music from Barry, Fran and Jan, and song and dance from Champ, Chris, Dick, John E, John H, John W, Mick J, Mike V, Paul, Phil T, and Sam. There were some particularly fine renditions of Rogers and Hammerstein highlights from the Elkins/Snowden combo and a mass Lily the Pink from the TVMM choir. Jan and John E. stayed overnight for the cooked breakfast.

Thursday, February 25. Oatlands Scouts.

A gallant crew of just Fran Smith, John Petts and John Walsh turned up on a cold Thursday evening to show the Morris to the Oatlands Scouts. To their surprise there were 32 Scouts waiting for them! Nothing deterred John W danced a jig as a demo and then launched into teaching them split into four sides of eight. First Constant Billy, Bampton and then Vandals of Hammerwich. The Scouts showed considerable enthusiasm and some aptitude. One of them even took over the teaching of a group to help out. The leadership seemed happy enough and paid us £50 plus £50 for the previous visit we had made two years ago! John W and Fran retired with hoarse voices and ringing ears to the nearby Alexander for a well-earned pint. Minding their own business they were accosted by two very attractive, friendly (and possibly inebriated) young ladies who expressed fascination with their ... costumes. An unexpected end to the evening.

Present: Petts, Smith, Walsh.

Monday March 28 (Easter Monday). Cobham. As a late idea, we made a short lunchtime tour near Cobham - first to the Medicine Garden and then to the Plough next door. Despite the close attentions of Storm Katie and a number of fallen trees obstructing various journeys, the power of the Morris held and we managed to dance successfully at both. A small crowd watched the first three dances at the Medicine Garden and then, when a delayed Fran Smith arrived, they all vanished out of the cold wind. The spectators were few at the Plough, but complimentary, and we even had a little weak sunshine. A pleasant opening to the 2016 season.

Present: Bull, Irwin, Jenkins, Keen, Mundy, Smith, Stokes, Walsh, Winder

Saturday April 9. TVMM Ale at All Saints.

After a break of many years we decided to resume our custom of inviting some of our friends to join us in an evening of eating, drinking, dancing and singing. The TVMM catering corps laid on curry (meat or veg), chilli, sausages and a buffet of cheese, pickles and fruit plus wine and Platform 3 beer in the church hall at All Saints, Weston Green. Our guests were Ewell, Fleur de Lys, Rampant Roosters, Spring Grove, a total (including TVMM) of around 55 happy participants.

Saturday April 16. Oxford Folk Weekend.

A very enjoyable and well supported day out in Oxford alongside - but with almost no contact with - the Oxford Folk weekend. We met in the rain at the Head of the River by the Isis at Folly Bridge. The rain soon stopped so there was dancing in the puddles on the terrace outside for the few hardy souls who stopped and a few less hardy who were hurrying into the pub. Then on to dance on the path just inside Christchurch Meadows - mildly surprised not to be moved on by the bodgers (or whatever they are called) [Ed. Porters if they belonged to Christchurch, Proctors if they belong to the University.] A constantly changing audience of tourists heading in to the college and cathedral and the meadows. Just to show we could we managed two sets for one dance and did a Valentine with the help of a charming young lady from Spain (I think). There was some demand for food so we headed up to the Kings Arms where some ate very expensive pork pies and we danced on the pavement outside without getting too much in people's way. And then on to our final spot just round the corner in The Broad (Broad Street) outside the White Horse. Stayed there for quite a while and were joined briefly by Phoenix Morris from Rickmansworth with whom we did a joint (and fast for them) Upton. Then back to the Park and Ride and home after an entirely unplanned set of stops. Excellent.

Present: Aitken, Allo, Bull, Elkins, Hare, Irwin, Jacs, Jenkins, Kalinowski, Keen, Smith, Stokes, Turner, Walsh, Winder.

Friday, April 22. St. George's Day Eve with Ewell MM. Messrs Elkins and Walsh joined Ewell St Mary MM for their annual St. George's Day tour of the City of London one day before the day at the request of Leadenhall Market, who weren't expecting much of an audience on the 23rd. Large crowds at The Market and several other locations, despite winds cold enough to worry brass monkeys.

Saturday, April 23. St George's Day, Thames Ditton.

Danced for the second time at the Thames Ditton Farmers Market - this time because it was St George's Day. A small party danced for about 45 minutes (including a brief pause during an April shower) to an appreciative if changing audience. No beer offered this time! Then moved down to the riverside at the Olde Swan, where we practiced in the open air to an audience of none.

Present: Bull, Elkins, Irwin, Jacs, Jenkins, Smith, Stokes, Turner, Walsh.

Monday, May 2. Riverhouse Barn/The Anglers/Clare House. The Barn asked us to dance during their May Day celebration, so we did, in a little courtyard where the medium sized audience couldn't escape. The Barn provide sausages in bread rolls and drinks. Then to The Anglers where we danced on the towpath for passing folk who mostly managed to ignore us. This applied also to the bemused bar staff. Finally to Clare House Care Home in Hersham Road, Walton. We had to ration our dancing time with an accordionist which meant we didn't dance very long. Just as well, because only a few of the inmates managed to stay awake.

Present: Bull, Elkins, Jacs, Jenkins, Keen, Mundy, Smith, Stokes, Turner, Walsh, Winder.

Tuesday, May 10. The Anchor, Brockham, with Rampant Roosters. When we eventually found the village and the pub we had a merry evening alternating dances with the Roosters. At one point we noticed – how could we not? – that bellringers were practising in the church across the road from the pub and on close examination of the stairs up to the bell chamber the bagman discovered a lady musician from Ewell MM among the ringers.

Present: Elkins, Irwin, Jenkins, Keen, Smith, Stokes, Turner, Winder.

Saturday May 14. University of Roehampton. The University asked Thames Valley to help celebrate the Investiture of their 136th May Monarch on a beautiful summer's day at Parkstead House. The May Monarch ceremony was apparently started in Whitelands College by John Ruskin. There were uninterrupted views of lawn, trees and Richmond Park. The A3 was there somewhere, but quite invisible and quiet. We danced for the procession of guests and dignitaries on the lawn and later took turns with the jazz band in the courtyard as the guests ate their sumptuous buffet lunch. TVMM tried very hard to finish off the buffet (by invitation) as well as Pimms and wine, but didn't quite manage it. A good time was had by all, and we were asked to come back next year. The only blot on the day was that the Bishop of Southwark wasn't prepared to give permission to the Bagman to bring TVMM along to dance in Southwark Cathedral. The performers were: Fran, Julia, Allan, Chris, Dick, John E, Mick, Paul and Phil T.

Tuesday May 17. A Celebration of the life of Malcolm Snowden's wife Frances at Woking Crematorium. TVMM musicians played Will Ye Go Lassie, Go? during the service and Barry, Dick, Fran, James, John E, John W, Mick, Paul, Phil U – and Champ – danced and played afterwards at the Crematorium and The Cricketers at Horsell. Dave and Cathy Dearsley observed.

Tuesday May 17. Richmond, The Cricketers and The White Cross, with Spring Grove.

Tuesday May 31. The Richard Onslow, Cranleigh. The Band: Barry, Julia. Dancers: Dick, John E, John H, John W, Mick, Paul, Phil M. A curious evening in damp Surrey. Fleur de Lys had invited us to replace Magog who had not responded to Fleur's invitation, but then turned up. So the three teams danced in a compact courtyard at the back of the pub while rain beat down on the fixed umbrellas under which the musicians and spare dancers hid. A crowded evening in every sense, too many dancers, not enough room to dance. Thames Valley responded by not dancing well.

Saturday June 4. Thaxted Ring Meeting. The Band: Fran, Peter Jones, Brian Heaton. **The Dancers:** Chris, Dick, John E, John H, John W, Mick, Phil M, Phil T. We turned up at Thaxted, some on Friday evening, others on Saturday morning and, in the case of an unrecognisable, shaven Mad Bill, on Saturday afternoon. We shared our tour of pretty Essex villages (with unimpressive churches, apart from Finchingfield) with London Pride, Saddleworth and Westminster. There was some cross-dancing between sides except for Saddleworth, whose style was altogether different, and whose dancing was altogether too good for others to join in. One of the Saddleworth complimented our Bagman, saying at the end of the afternoon that they had enjoyed watching us dance, a compliment indeed. We thought we had performed well, including in our show dance – Cuckoo's Nest Sherborne. Mick and Sam couldn't track down the key to their billet on Friday, and John E had the same trouble on Saturday. The Hall was called the Centre for the Disabled, appropriately enough because it only opened on Saturday evening when an ambulance delivered a Man of Wight who had fallen over in the street, damaging his face and needing attention. The Old Time Music Trio went home on Saturday evening as did most others. There were only five for breakfast.

Tuesday, June 7. The Weir at Molesey with Phoenix Clog. Alan, Dick, Fran, John H, John W, Julia, Paul, Phil M, Mick, Chris, Champ, Phil T.

Tuesday, June 14. Plaform3/The Winning Horse, Claygate. A merry evening with Ewell MM at Claygate's smallest pub (including a double Gustav Dance) with a music session afterwards at The Winner. Alan, Dick, John E, John H, John W, Julia, Paul, Phil M, Chris, Barry, Steve, Phil T.

Tuesday, June 21. The Castle, Ottershaw. Alan, Dick, John E, John W, Paul, Fran, John P, Phil M.

Tuesday June 28. Marneys, Weston Green. It rained a lot but we got some dancing in, including three volunteers from the audience. Dick, John E, John W, Julia, Fran, Paul, Barry, Chris, Phil T, John P, Alan.

Saturday/Sunday July 2/3. The Wedding of Tim Keen and Charlie at Wookey Hole Caves. Although the invitation specified a Steam Punk/Victorian dress code Thames Valley

turned up in Morris kit. We assembled on Saturday at The Castle of Comfort, East Harptree for our first taste of cider and a lunchtime session. Then to the Wookey Hole Hotel to check in and dance for the assembling guests, followed by the short walk to and into the caves (past many maturing Cheddar Cheeses), where the wedding actually took place, in a chamber with a low ceiling and an uneven wet slippery floor. We supplied an arch of sticks for the bride, but decided not to dance! After the ceremony we danced outside among large dinosaurs and guests returning to the Hotel before returning by way of the Penny Arcade to a hog roast dinner. After dinner we slipped out to the Wookey Hole Inn, which we revisited on Sunday morning after breakfast for more cider and dancing. We spent lunchtime at The Hunters Lodge, Priddy, a very unfashionable (no website) pub where we performed for an appreciative audience including a chorus line of mature ladies supplied by the bagman's cousin. Mick Jenkins managed to miss the pub completely and drove on to Shepton Mallett, at which point he decided it was simpler to drive back to London.

Present: Alan, Barry, Dick, Fran, John E, John W, Mick, Paul, Phil T, Sam

Tuesday, July 5. The Saddlers, Send with Fleur de Lys. Alan, Barry, Chris, Fran, John E, John W, Julia, Paul, Phil T.

Thursday, July 7. Withington. The funeral of Collie from The King's Head's at St. Michael's Church, which was crammed with mourners. We danced at the church and at the wake at Chedworth Village Hall (see below). This brought to an end Thames Valley's long association with the King's Head, which was now to be sold.

Present: Champ, Dave D, Dave C, Dick, Fran, Jan, John E, John W, Mike V, Robin



Saturday, July 9. Ewell Day of Dance. TVMM didn't attend because of shortage of numbers.

Tuesday, July 12. The Three Horeshoes, Laleham. Another successful evening at one of the Pearmain pubs. Present: Alan, Champ, Chris, Dick, Fran, John E, John W, Julia, Paul, Phil and Phil.

Saturday, July 16. Claygate Flower Show. Ewell St.Mary joined us for a successful day, starting with lunch at The Griffin, and ending with a session at Platform 3. In between we danced at the Flower Show, The Hare and Hounds, and The Flower Show again. A highlight was a Tug of War between Ewell and Thames Valley, which TVMM did not win. Present: Alan, Barry, Champ, Chris, Dick, John E, John W, John H, Julia, Mick, Phil x 2.

Tuesday, July 19. The Parrot, Forest Green. Alan, Jim B, Barry, Chris, Dick, John E, JohnW, Julia, Mick, Phil T.

Saturday, July 23. The Fleur de Lys Day of Dance. Another last-minute cancellation by TVMM.

Tuesday July 26. The Wheatsheaf, Esher. Fran, Julia, Chris, Dick, Phil x 2, John E, John W, Mick, Steve, Champ.

Tuesday, August 2. The Old Plough, Cobham. Fran, Julia, John E, Dick, Champ, Chris, Mick, Phil M.

Saturday, August 6. Woking Canal Festival. Two sets of agricultural dancing from TVMM in full sunshine with a big crowd and everyone happy. Fran, Julia, Champ, Dick, John E, John H, Mick, Mike V, Paul, Phil M, Sam, Steve.

Tuesday, August 9. The Red Lion, Horsell. Alan, Champ, Chris, Dick, Fran, John E, John H, Julia, Mick, Mike, Paul, phil and Phil, Steve.

Tuesday, Aug 16. Thames Court, Shepperton. TVMM danced on the veranda for an unresponsive sea of diners on the outside tables, which included Peter Davidson (Dr Who) and his large family. Fran revealed that he had been in amateur dramatics with Who many years ago. Whatever happened to Fran?
Alan, Barry, Chris, Dick, Fran, John E, John H, Julia, Mick, Phil and Phil.

Tuesday, August 23. The Onslow Arms, West Clandon. A very large crowd outside on a blazing hot day and evening. In reply a thin TVMM squad performed 4-man dances. Fran, John P, Julia, John E, Steve, Alan, Phil M, Phil T.

August 26-29. The 2016 Cotswolds Weekend Once again we booked the Withington Village (Jubilee) Hall as our base for internal camping and some campers using the field next door from Friday night onwards. Breakfast and some other meals prepared in the en suite kitchen, once we'd remembered how to make the oven and the hot water work, and some use of The Mill.

Saturday. Our coach collected us on Saturday morning and took us to The Kings Head, Bledington (excellent sunny spot), then The Swan, Swinbrooke. Although there was a good

crowd this was a very rushed stop because we hadn't allowed enough time in our schedule. Next the Victoria, Eastleach for a sumptuous buffet lunch. Here we had our first encounter with the weekend's thunderstorms which washed out our planned appearance at the Eastleach Fete although we did dance at the Victoria, which the staff kept dry (just) by blocking the back door with bar towels. Back to Withington for tea and off to The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney for the usual dance on gravel, followed by a certain amount of liquid refreshment back at Withington.

Sunday. Procession from the Village Hall to The Mill, there being no-one in The Kings Head and dance. Lunch and dancing in the garden at The Plough, Prestbury, Tea at the Village Hall and another thunderstorm in the evening at The Green Dragon, Cowley.

Absolutely astonishing that the cloudbursts which wiped out our appearance at the Eastleach fete and nearly flooded The Victoria at Eastleach on Saturday, and just avoided drenching us on Sunday evening at The Green Dragon, completely missed Withington just a few miles away. Didn't stop the campers moaning about damp tents though - they should have joined the pickled egg-eaters (or should that be pickled-egg eaters?) sleeping on the floor of the village hall,.

Tuesday, September 6. First Autumn practice at All Saints.

Saturday September 10, Cobham Heritage Day . Torrential rain led to a slight change of plan. We were due to dance in Church Street from 11.45 in Church Street and Fran needed to get away promptly so, at the Bagman's request, we were allowed to dance on the altar of St. Andrew's Church to an enthusiastic audience swelled no doubt by the damp conditions outside. Alan, Chris, Dick, Fran, John E, John H, John W, Mick, Paul and Phil T then danced a short session in Church Street before some of us fled the returning rain storm to sample the more welcome liquids in The Plough.

Saturday, September 17. Yateley Day of Dance. Alan, Chris, Dick, Fran (from tea time), John E, John H (until tea time), John W, Malcolm and Phil T. enjoyed the usual coach trip and ale, with the help of a trial marriage with Spring Grove involving the exchange of musicians and dancers during the day. We visited Bartons Mill, Basing House, The Coach & Horses Rotherwick, Milestones, and Swallowfield Carnival with teams from Ellington, Spring Grove and Yateley. The feast was fish and chips "from our local chippie around the corner. TVMM did not win the Blindfold Morris competition.

Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2. Forest of Dean tour. Unfortunately, Edward and Maureen had to cancel this year's weekend in Cinderford because of illness.

Tuesday, November 20, Thames Valley 2016 AGM

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN

Notes of the AGM held on November 29, 2016 at All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green

Present: *J. Walsh (Squire), J. Elkins (Bagman), F. Smith (Treasurer), P. Turner (Ragman), D. Keen (Woodman and Farrier), P. Binns, A. Bull, J. Hare, M. Jenkins, M. Snowden, C. Stokes, S. Tovey.*

Roll of honour: *The Squire read out the names of deceased TVMM members: Jim Brooks, Tony Brown, Robin Cobb, Peter Dashwood, Amnon Derrenberg, Roy Dommett, Ron Duncombe, Hugh Gibson, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, John Hall, Martin Jolly, Alun*

Jones, Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussen, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Ted Perry, Gordon Ralph, Cyril Smith, Gordon Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Mike Sugrue, Phil Sylvester, and Bill Tofts. During the year the side attended the funerals of Coralie Turner, the landlady of the Kings Head at Withington, and Malcolm Snowden's wife, Frances.

Communications: *Jan Lucas has produced some designs for a new TVMM website. It was agreed to produce a new website, and that Steve, the Webmaster of the present site, should discuss with Jan whether the new website could be accommodated on the present server. Responsibility for maintenance of the new website passes to Jan Lucas - for which great thanks.*

Sticks and Animals: *Dick said that stick stocks were barely adequate for next season. He agreed to look into finding more sticks. The goat and horse were in rude health, despite few outings in 2016. Dick asked for fruit cakes for distribution on Boxing Day. Steve had found the side's set of longswords, in poor condition, in his garage. It was suggested that Colin Messer (Spring Grove) might be interested in having them. The sides rapper swords were currently held by Mick Jenkins and Jon Stanley (Box Hill Bedlam).*

Ragman: Phil had adequate stocks of kit to meet the foreseeable demand. Sam Allo had stocks of leather badges.

Accounts (copy attached): *The club finished the year with £3,745 in the bank, before payment of £640 rent for the hire of All Saint's Hall for Tuesday practices, which has now been paid. This would reduce cash in the bank to £3,105 compared with £2,571 at the end of 2015. Income had been boosted by fees from the Claygate Flower Show and the Roehampton University May Day event. As usual the side had subsidised several events, including the Hire of the All Saints Hall (£218), the Cotswolds Weekend (£195), Thaxted Ring Meeting (£118) and the Bagman's Night Out (160). Full details are in the attached copy of the accounts. It was agreed that annual minimum subs for active and country members should be held at £20/year, but should remain voluntary; active members should continue to pay £3/head on practice nights; membership of the Morris Ring and EFDSS will be continued. A donation of £200 will be made to the Ashford Cameo (Alzheimer's) Day Centre in memory of Mike Sugrue and the Boxing Day collection will be donated to Woking Hospice, topped up to £500 if necessary. Dick agreed to acquire some branded collecting boxes for Boxing Day.*

Bagman: *2015/2016 had been another very busy season, perhaps too busy – we had withdrawn at the last minute from the Ewell Day of Dance, the Fleur de Lys 40th Birthday Day of Dance, and the Kingston Morris Midsummer Evening. The Forest of Dean weekend had also been cancelled because Edward and Maureen were unwell. (A list of completed fixtures is attached). On the positive side, there had been some excellent events in 2016, including Twelfth Night with Ewell at the Willoughby Arms, the revived Bagman's Night Out at the Wheatsheaf, Esher, the also revived TVMM Ale at All Saints church hall with guests from Ewell, Fleur, Rampant Roosters, and Spring Grove, the unique wedding of Tim Keen in Wookey Hole Thaxted Ring Meeting and trips to Oxford, the Cotswolds and the Yateley Day of Dance. We continued our relationship with the Pearmain Pubs (Wheatsheaf, Old Plough, Red Lion, Horsell, Onslow Arms) and with the Platform Three “pop-up pub” in Claygate. Less happy, but not gloomy events were attending and dancing at the funerals of Coralie Taylor, the landlady of the now sold Kings Head at Withington and Frances, wife of Malcolm Snowden. Autumn and winter practices continued to be regular at All Saints Church hall in Weston Green.*

Squire: John started by thanking everyone in the club for their support during another enjoyable year and in particular the Bagman for his continued efforts on our behalf. [And in his notes left at home, there were warm thanks to all the musicians for their sterling work in keeping us dancing.] He noted that there had been a very similar level of involvement in events this year (39 of them). 29 members had taken part in one or more events and the average attendance at practice had increased. He particularly mentioned the TVMM Ale, Thaxted Ring Meeting, Wookey Hole and the tug-of-war at the Claygate Flower show as events to remember. He also suggested that the use of a coach on the Saturday of the Cotswolds was a new feature worth retaining. In discussing the standard of dancing, it was accepted that some of the basics of Morris steps and hand movements had become less than precise and John stated that he would spend some time on revision in each practice. He will also, though, continue with the resurrection of lapsed dances from his youth and new dances to supplement those added to the repertoire in the past year (Gustav's Dance, Glaister's Gambol, Tidings). He has already started on Landlord (Adderbury), Bumpus (Ilmington) and Beaux (Badby). There may be more!

Election of Officers: The following officers were re-elected by acclamation:

President: Chris Ridley (his job is for life) Squire: John Walsh Bagman: John Elkins
 Treasurer: Fran Smith Ragman: Phil Turner Webmaster: Steve Tovey
 Animals and sticks: Dick Keen

Fixtures for 2017: Tuesday night practices will continue weekly at All Saints until May, and then resume in September. Tuesday evening dancing out in 2017 will largely follow the 2016 pattern, including a Bagman's Night Out in January, and an Ale in April. There was the possibility of a weekend trip to northern France, a Ring Meeting, a farewell visit to Twitchen Farm (which is finally nearing sale), and visits to the Forest of Dean or Robin's estate in Acton Beauchamp. A very provisional fixtures list for 2017 is attached.

The meeting closed at about 9.45.

John Elkins, TVMM Bagman, December 8, 2016

TVMM ANNUAL ACCOUNTS - 29th November 2016

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
ADMIN			
Membership subs	380.00	Ring/efdss membership	137.00
All Saints practice subs	1,201.44	Hire of Hall	720.00
Sale of Badges	179.00	Website Costs	125.72
		Donation-Woking Hospice	200.00
		Donation-Cameo Day Centre	200.00
		Donation-efdss Dommatt Archive	100.00
TOTAL	1,760.44		1482.72
ACTIVITIES			
Oaklands Scouts	100.00	Drinks at Wookey Hole	20.00
Claygate Flower Show	250.00	Claygate Flower Show Lunches	176.00
Basingstoke Canal Festival	50.00	Cancellation fee - Ewell D of D	50.00
Cobham Heritage Day	100.00	Cancellation fee - Fleur de Lys	50.00
Roehampton University	250.00		
TOTAL	750.00		296.00
Bags			

Boxing Day	555.85		
Cotswolds Tour	76.18		
The Parrot, Forest Green	50.30		
The Onslow Arms, Clandon	41.42		
The TVMM Goat	33,21		
The Castle, Ottershaw	27.50		
Thames Court	26.65		
The Plough, Cobham	25.25		
Datchet Day of Dance	24.00		
The Red Lion, Horsell	22.48		
The Wheatsheaf, Esher	19.79		
3 Horseshoes, Laleham	15.13		
TOTAL BAGS	917.76		
Contributions by Men		Payments by TVMM	
TVMM Ale	560.00	TVMM Ale	495.39
Yateley D of D	214.00	Yateley Day of Dance	206.00
Thaxted Ring Meeting	214.00	Thaxted Ring Meeting	688.00
Cotswolds	615.00	Cotswolds	810.00
Bagmans Night Out	570.00	Bagmans Night Out	730.00
Kennet Ale	120.00	Kennet Ale	195.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2,649.00	TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,124.39
TOTAL INCOME	6077.20	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,903.11
Bank Balance B/Fwd	2571.01	Bank Balance C/Fwd	3,745.10
TOTAL	8,648.21	TOTAL	8,648.21

Saturday December 3. Claygate Christmas Lights. Started at Platform 3. There was hardly a soul about at that stage but dancing commenced regardless (and heedless of the bitter wind). The crowd grew as the light went down. Some confusion ensued about our advertised set in front of the stage as the brass band (Scouts?) had just started nearby so we decamped to an empty spot nearer the station where we danced again for a large crowd. An hour and a half altogether was enough given the cold! Phil Turner supported Fran gallantly with the music. Present: Bull, Hare, Keen, Jenkins, Smith, Snowden, Stokes, Turner, Vardy, Walsh

Sunday, December 4. Thames Ditton Christmas Fair After assembling at the Red Lion - where they were offering an interesting (but hugely expensive) rye beer - danced briefly in the car park before moving up to the High Street where there was a large and appreciative crowd. John Hare had decided to go straight to the other pub and so missed this spot leaving just a bare six dancers! A second spot further up the street had to be danced small because of the press of people (John H had rejoined). Finally, a very short set at the George and Dragon before other engagements took the dancers away. The music was much improved by Fran's use of his amplifier. Phil T was also playing on his melodeon. Present: Bull, Hare, Keen, Jenkins, Smith, Stokes, Turner, Vardy, Walsh

Monday, December 26. Boxing day. For the second time we followed our new routine – Platform 3, The Foley, The Hare, The Winner and The Griffin. If anything the crowd at Platform 3 was even bigger than last year. By contrast, numbers (and the welcome from the staff) at the Foley was muted, but there was the usual large crowd at The Hare. We were joined by some musicians and dancers from Kingston Morris and the collection yielded £592.60 plus 5.6 swiss francs.

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Wednesday, January 11. Highway Adults Group, Chessington. We danced at The King's Centre in Chessington for Paul's church's Highway Group for adults with learning disabilities, and a very appreciative lot they were. We danced for them and got them to dance (most enthusiastically) with us. A great evening all round.

Friday, January 27. The Bagman's Night Out, The Wheatsheaf, Esher. Back to the Wheatsheaf for another merry meal, this time in the private room, which was much better than being in the rather noisy general restaurant. This time there seventeen of us enjoyed a good meal, some booze, and a lot of conversation. Present: John Walsh and Linda, John Elkins and Linda, Phi Turner and Lesley, Phil Mundy and Leslie, Dick Keen, Mick Jenkins, Chris Stokes and Karen, Sam Allo and Emma, John Petts, David Payne and Sue.

Saturday, February 18. The Kennet Ale, Bracknell. Ten, or was it eleven men joined in the fun with Kennet and other guests at their usual winter ale in the Scout Hut. Present (probably): Dick, Phil and Phil, Champ, John W, Fran, Paul, Mick, Chris, Alan and Sam

Saturday, April 8. TVMM Ale, All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green. Another successful Ale at All Saints. This year we were joined by Ewell, Yateley, Spring Grove, Roosters and one man from Kennet: 50 people in all. Catering the same as last year, hot food

served through the kitchen hatch, salad, cheese and fruit in the hall along with beer from Platform 3, wine and soft drinks. Plenty of dancing and a good seemed to be had by all.

Friday, April 21. St.George's Day-ish. Squire John and Champ joined Ewell MM for their annual St.George's Day do in Leadenhall Market and other pubs in the City - on the day before St.George's Day.

Saturday, April 22. Oxford Folk Festival. Yet another repeat performance. We assembled at the Head of the River by Folly Bridge in fine weather and had such a good time dancing for a large audience that we had to be dragged away to dance elsewhere. Elsewhere was inside ChristChurch meadows, where we busked without permission in 2016. Unfortunately the College porters were more active this year and moved us on – because we might be disturbing the students studying for exams! So we moved on to the Bear in Blue Boar Street for a few more dances – and then back to the Head of the River. Along, satisfying day.

Present: John W, John E, Alan, Paul, Dick, Champ, Chris, Sam, Fran, Julia, Robin and Robin.

Monday, May 1. Riverhouse Art Centre, Walton. We danced again for the Riverhouse Mayday event and then, because The Swan didn't want us, for a short spot at The Anglers.

Saturday, May 13. Spring Grove Ale/Roehampton May Monarch. Spring Grove celebrated their 40th birthday by dancing in Richmond, Twickenham, and Kingston with guests from Ewell St Mary, Greensleeves, Kingston Morris, Yateley, Thames Valley and London Pride. We set off by double decker bus from St John's Church, Kingston at 9.45 and danced with Greensleeves and Kingston at Richmond Green and The White Cross. At this point TVMM left by taxi to dance for Roehampton University at their May Monarch celebration at Whitelands College, where we danced on the lawn and then in the upstairs bar as the guests scoffed their lunch. TVMM tried hard to finish off the buffet (with permission) but had to retire defeated. Then by taxi again to The Barmy Arms, where we rejoined the main party. Back to the double-decker for the journey to The Ram at Kingston, where all danced by the riverside, and by bus again to the Spring Grove, or rather to the Bloomfields street party, the high spot of the day. A short walk to the feast at St John's Church Hall, for eating drinking, singing, but no dancing. You can't have everything, but it was a very successful day.

Present: Fran, Julia, Champ, John E, John W, Dick, Chris, Phil T, (plus Robin A. Alan and Phil M when Spring Grove could spare them).

ST VALERY MAY 19/22

The germ of the idea for this trip to Normandy was John Walsh suggesting that we might visit St.Valery sur Somme in Picardy for a weekend's dancing. The project gradually morphed, after Annie Sugrue had tried without success to interest the local authorities in a visit from TVMM, into a plan to visit St.Valery sur Caux in the Seine Maritime Departement of Normandy. Fran's friend Bob Reeve had a house there and was keen to help organise a visit from TVMM.

After much complicated planning, the main party of 13 travelled by minibus from Jenny Glaister's house in Woodham on the Friday morning, driven by John Walsh and Jan Lucas,

and met up with Mike and Jill, and Phil Turner and Lesley who made their own way to St. Valery. The main excitement of the minibus journey was at the start. The bus should have been delivered at 8.45 and a replacement bus eventually arrived at 10.20 after the original bus was involved in an accident on the M25 between the depot in Park Royal and Woodham. We discovered that the windscreen washer smeared opaque liquid over the screen but Jan and John coped.

Because of the delay we arrived in St.V. too late to dance at the local Old Folks home and opted to check in at our hotel in the main square and then head for evening meal in the restaurant across the square. Signs of past and present addiction to calvados began to emerge round about this time.

Our Hotel de la Poste was friendly, basic and cheap.

On Saturday our local contact, Bob's friend Francoise, had arranged for us to dance in Doudeville, the nearby Capitale du lin (flax). We danced at the town hall, in the local market and at the Flax Museum for bemused locals doing their shopping, although the young female helpers in the museum were quite friendly. After a small reception at the town hall laid on by the deputy mayor ("un aperitif normand" or ~~two~~ three, back to St.V, Lunch, dancing in the deserted square, dinner and, in the evening, dancing in the dark outside the Maison Henri IV. Calvados was, again, taken.

Sunday started with another market, at Luneray, where we danced in a street crowded with shoppers after politely declining the dance spot selected by Francoise in a car park. At lunchtime we broke free, and drove to the seaside town of Veules-les-Roses, where we had lunch and busked in front of L'eglise Saint-Martin (very interesting carvings on the nave columns) and on the seafront. In the evening Francoise had organised an "aperitif" followed by a cold supper at Bob's place, where we danced, gorged and drank Bob's red wine.

We also danced impromptu over the weekend at the Old Folks home and in the town square again, in front of the video display on the police station which, among other things, advertised the presence of "Les Morris Dancers".



Monday was given over to an incident-free drive back to Woodham.

Did I mention the Calvados?

The combatants and camp followers were: Fran and Jan, Jenny G, John and Linda W, John E, Dick, Mike and Jill, Jan and Luciole, Phil M, Phil and Lesley T, Sam and Emma plus Bob, Michelle, Francoise and Michel, who asked us to come back next year.

Tuesday, May 30. Seven Stars Ripley. A merry start to the Tuesday night season with Fleur de Lys and Phoenix Clog in the back garden of the Seven Stars. Present: Fran, Julia, Champ, John E, Dick, Chris, Phil and Phil, David, Jim B, John H

Tuesday, June 6. Richmond. After a lot of rain, the weather dried up in time for the start of dancing at the Cricketers on Richmond Green. Unfortunately, the wind was still blowing so not very crowd-friendly. Four quick dances for ourselves - five Americans watched the first before heading off to their dinner appointment. Then down to the White Cross for more windy dancing. Pleasant welcome from pub, a few half-interested spectators at the top of the steps into the shelter but still too windy for sitting outside. Not unpleasant but a very Thames Valley sort of evening! Present: Bull, Hare, Keen, Mundy, Smith, Snowden, Stokes, Walsh

Tuesday, June 13. To Platform3 in Claygate for the "smallest pub's" second birthday in the company of Ewell St Mary's MM. A typically lively evening with ESMMM, including a couple of joint dances - Gustav's and Vandals. Culminated in setting a new record for the number of people crammed into the pub. We managed 23 of whom 20 were Morris folk (oh, and the goat). The usual very warm welcome from the pub which also meant free beer all evening. Present: Bull, Hare, Jacs, Jenkins, Keen, Mundy, Petts, Snowden, Tovey, Turner, Walsh

Sunday, June 18. The Princess Alice Hospice (and Dog Show) at West End. on the hottest day of the year so far - just 31degrees. Undaunted we danced tolerably well once Mr Smith had got his fingers warmed up and the sticks had arrived. We'll pass quickly over the first two dances! They were very pleased and grateful to see us and there were even a few watching. Very complimentary comments from a member of Rampant Roosters who was there. Luckily we were on before the Dog show started or there would have been no one! It was warm though. Present: Bull, Hare, Jacs, Jenkins, Keen, Payne, Smith, Snowden, Turner, Walsh.

Tuesday, June 20. The Castle, Ottershaw. Against all the odds the scorching, humid weather passed the Castle by, leaving a warm breezy evening. Unfortunately, TVMM, plus Jen, Annie and Hellie easily outnumbered the audience. Never mind. We enjoyed ourselves. Present: Barclay, Bull, Elkins, Hare, Jacs, Jenkins, Keen, Payne, Smith, Turner, Walsh.

Tuesday, June 27. The Alma (aka Marney's Village Inn), Weston Green. Now for something completely different. It rained all afternoon and all evening. The duty manager was not authorised to let us dance or play music inside the pub (which was virtually deserted apart from us) so we had a pint or two and went home. What was not different was that this was almost an exact repeat of our last visit to The Alma on **June 28, 2016**, except that on that occasion we got in a few dances between the showers.

Present: Fran, John P, Julia, John E, Alan, Phil and Phil, David, Champ, Chris, Dick, Mick, David, John H.

Tuesday, July 4. The Three Horseshoes Laleham. A routine, slightly substandard evening. **Present:** Fran, John P, Julia, John E, Phil and Phil, David, Champ, Chris, Dick, Mick, David, John H.

Saturday, July 8. Datchet Day of Dance. A full day's dancing in Datchet and Windsor. Excellent organisation as usual by Datchet MM. starting with tea, coffee and bacon rolls at the W.I Hall, dancing on the green and a couple on the station platform before the train ride to Windsor and Eton Riverside. Only four sides this year – Datchet, Taepa's Tump, Whitethorn, and Thames Valley - so we all went round together taking turns at Windsor Bridge, Peascod Street, The Guildhall, Windsor Bridge again, the Alexandra Gardens and the Boatman. Lunch at The Waterman's Arms across the bridge in Eton, where TVMM danced again. The one thing Datchet got slightly wrong was temperature control. After lunch the temperature and humidity seemed to ratchet up a few degrees, or was it the effect of the pub lunch and the earlier discovery of the £2.15/pint beers at the Windlesora Wetherspoons? In any case, after the train ride back to Datchet cups of tea at the W.I Hall were extremely welcome, as were the excellent home-made cakes. A final exhausting dance session on the green and home. Fran was the sole TVMM musician and played all day, helped from time to time by a vast orchestra from the other sides.

Present: Fran, John W, John E, Phil M, David, Chris, Dick, Mick, David, John H.

Tuesday, July 11. The Wheatsheaf Esher. You wait for years to get completely rained off (at The Alma) and then it happens twice in a month. For once the weather forecast was accurate – continuous rain all afternoon and evening, so a large squad enjoyed a free pint and chips inside the pub and then went home. (We arranged to try our luck here again in August.) **Present:** Fran, John P, John E, Phil and Phil, David, Chris, Alan, Dick, Mick.

Saturday, July 15. Claygate Flower Show. The 65th anniversary of TVMM's first public appearance, at the 1952 Flower Show. A few spots of rain as we assembled at The Griffin, for a practice session, but no more after that. Ham and cheese ploughmen for lunch and then a short walk to Blakeden Drive for a couple of dances in the street for an aged neighbour of the Bagman. (this was filmed by a passing neighbour in a succession of still photos which he then joined together to make a speeded up video!) Then on to the main business of the day, dancing between the Tug of War, the fire damaged pavilion and the Pimms and Gin stall. After a sunny session we retired for a rest at the almost deserted Hare and Hounds and more dancing. Back to the Show where we danced a long session in front of the beer tent, more noisy than the earlier session because we were closer to the Fun Fair, but plenty of generally interested spectators. Finally back to the Hare, which had filled up as the Show ran down. Dancing quality had declined but a lively set of dances and a chance to sample the Brightwater Brewery's selection of locally brewed beers. A larger band than usual (Alan, John P, Julia and Phil T) carried us smoothly through the afternoon. **Present:** John P, Julia, John E, Phil and Phil, David, Chris, Alan, Dick, Sam, David.

Tuesday, July 18. The Old Plough, Stoke d'Abernon. Rain threatened again at the start but didn't get beyond a light sprinkle. Julia made her solo debut in the first dance, playing Shepherd's Hey for the (only) six dancers who turned up. We switched to 4-man dancing after that with Alan and Phil taking turns with Julia – and then Jim Barclay turned up unexpectedly, giving us two musicians and six dancers. After that a mixture of 4- and 6-man dances with rotating musicians. A small but interested crowd looked on and the rain held off until around 9 o'clock. **Present:** Julia, Jim B, John E, Phil T, David, Alan, Dick, Champ.

Tuesday, July 25. The Red Lion, Horsell. A lively evening with just enough dancers, supplemented by a woman dancer from Jolley Hatters Morris, (Tasmania), who just happened to be there, and Cheryl Barclay. **Present:** Fran, Julia, Jim B, John E, Phil T, David, Alan, Dick, Chris.

Tuesday, August 1. The Onslow Arms, West Clandon. A good news/bad news evening. TVMM welcomed John Hare back from a "health rest" after the Datchet Day, and Phil M danced once after, or during(?) his health break. We also welcomed Jack Straws who turned up in immaculate kit and dancing immaculately (nearly). The bad news was that unlike last year, when there were dozens of customers eating outside on a hot evening, this year it was a cool evening and the many customers were inside for a French Wine Evening leaving a very select audience for the dancing. **Present:** Fran, Julia, Jim B, John E, Phil T, Mick, David, Chris, Champ, John H, Phil M.

Tuesday, August 8. The Wheatsheaf, Esher. This was our second attempt to dance at The Wheatsheaf this year; the first on July 11th was rained off. This time, despite an appalling weather forecast up until the day before, the evening was dry and we danced uninterrupted. **Present:** Fran, Julia, John P, John W, John E, Dick, Phil T, David, Champ, Phil M, Steve.

August 11/13. Twitchen. This was the Farewell to Twitchen tour organized by Peter Jones, who was selling the property. Dancers and supporters were spread over Twitchen itself, Mike and Jill's house down the road and local B&B.

Friday evening food at Mike and Jill's.

Saturday: The Bagman excelled himself on Saturday morning by discovering that he had forgotten to bring his white trousers and shirt from London, so danced in fawn jeans and a shirt borrowed from Fran, which he donned in a toilet at the first stop, the Exmoor National Park Info Centre (car park), Blackmoor Gate. Then to The Crown Inn, West Down, The Muddiford Inn (lunch stop) and The Old Station House Inn at Blackmoor Gate, which appeared to be a converted railway station – because that's what it was. It may revert to being a railway station if the plans to reinstate the Lynton-Barnstaple railway come to anything. A barbecue at Twitchen in the evening and dancing in the courtyard.

Sunday was excellent. Phil T decided he would stay and Mike seemed to be fully recovered from his tiredness of the night before so we had six dancers. We did a very decent set in front of a small but interested bunch of local spectators - mostly known to the Jones/Vardy clan. Peter said he enjoyed it more than Saturday. The West Barton Gate contingent then went to Lynmouth and walked up river to the National Trust tea shop for cream teas then back to Twitchen for a gin and tonic before a final farewell there. In the evening we went to the Venus for dinner. All very satisfactory. Journey home on Monday very slow but otherwise fine. Champ's bus wouldn't start so he had to call the AA only for it to start first time when the guy tried it!

Present: Peter, John W, John E, Phil T, Alan, Steve, Champ, Jan, Fran, Dick, Chris, Mick, Mike.

Postscript from Peter Jones: Mighty glad that the Twit weekend is declared a success. I can well understand your need to depart promptly on Sunday A.M. and hope that the journey was not too tiresome. As it happened, my expectation of a skimpy half hour at the 'Fox & Goose, Parracombe with everybody getting anxious about the return journey, proved quite to the contrary. We actually had a decent little crowd and had a super time which continued unabated for 2 hours no less. Great fun, following on from the emotional performance in the courtyard the evening before. All in all it was a jolly fine way to draw a line under the Morris connection at Twitchen where we have enjoyed such a wonderful quarter century (nearly). Do please give my warmest thanks to 'the Men' and the 'John's in particular. Young Walsh is a fine leader of men.

Tuesday, August 15. The Stepping Stones, Westhumble. Last night with Rampant Roosters was enjoyable and we mostly danced OK. Eight dancers including Chris who seems to be OK though he says he is feeling a bit weak. Champ was only doing hanky dances as his 'morris elbow' was bothering him and Phil M was only doing light work, but is steadily strengthening. Fran and Jim B as music. Roosters were on good form and danced pretty well. They had 8 dancers as well though more music.

Sunday, August 20. Whiteley Village. We entertained a tea party on the patio behind Ingram House. A very merry afternoon with, mostly, 4-man dances though James did make the numbers up to 6 for one dance. **Present:** James, Julia, John W, John E, Phil T, Phil M, Alan.

Tuesday, August 22. The Crown, St. Margarets, with Spring Grove Morris. An enjoyable evening with sprinklings of rain early and late. Memorable for a 12-man Adderbury hey which didn't go entirely to plan. **Present:** Fran, John P, Champ, Dick, John W, John E, Phil T, Phil M, Alan, David.

August Bank Holiday Weekend, Withington. Another successful weekend based in the Jubilee Hall and the adjoining camping field. Group breakfasts and evening meals were taken in the Hall for a moving target of 20 +/- including an enormous and boisterous Vardy familyclan and many other camp followers. A quantity of antique liquor was supplied by the Bagman from his deceased parents' stock and demolished by the participants, including part/whole bottles of Grand Marnier, Benedictine, Cherry Brandy and Cointreau. Much, more up to date alcohol was also given a good seeing to over the weekend.

The Saturday tour encompassed the Keepers Arms, Quenington; the Victoria, Eastleach (for a skimpy buffet lunch); Eastleach Fete (where tea and cakes were offered and consumed); and the Bathgate Arms, North Cerney. A 29-seater coach, which looked as if it might have done service at Dunkirk, picked us up at The Mill and delivered us without incident to Eastleach, but then developed gearbox trouble. Our driver managed to force the coach noisily into second gear and we lurched off. It rapidly became clear that there was no point heading for Cerney, and we decided to cut our losses and instructed the driver to head back to Withington. In a slow motion version of Speed (a film about a runaway bus) the driver negotiated narrow country lanes with occasional oncoming traffic, T-junctions, hills, villages and major roads all the way back to The Mill, where he parked the dying bus and fled. (Actually Jill gave him a lift back to his depot somewhere near Swindon.) We then decamped into our own vehicles and drove to Cerney.

After all that excitement and an evening meal at the Hall a small party visited The Mill and had a pint or two watching the tumbleweed blowing through the deserted bars. There were occasional bursts of sound from a small room full to overflowing with an exuberantly dressed hen party but otherwise no customers – on a Bank Holiday Saturday night in the Cotswolds! The next morning we danced to The Mill and fell in with the hen party gain. The bride, who was due to get married in Serbia, performed bravely in TVMM's signature ~~gripe~~ Fieldtown Valentine, and we all drove off to the Craven Arms at Brockhampton for lunch dancing and snoozing in the warm afternoon sun.

Last stop of the weekend was at the Green Dragon, Cowley, slightly delayed by Fran losing, then finding his car keys. **Present (at various times over the weekend):** Robin Aitken, Sam Allo, Alan Bull, Tim Cawdron, David Craig, Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, Mick Jenkins, Robin Kalinowski, Dick Keen, Jan Lucas, Edward Morris, Phil Mundy, Nick Oliver, David Payne, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Chris Stokes, Steve Tovey, Mike Vardy, John Walsh.

Tuesday, August 29. The Saddlers, Send. Yet again Thames Valley were one sandwich short of a picnic, with the dancers only just outnumbering the band. Just five dancers turned up to dance with Fleur who had enough dancers and musicians for two sides. We did manage to assemble a full side for a couple of dances with the help of George, the 16-year old son of one of the Fleur ladies, who dances with them regularly. We rushed to sign him up for TVMM but were told, firmly but politely, that he was already spoken for. He lives in Yateley. **Present:** Fran, Julia, John P, Jim B, John W, John E, Dick, David, Mick.

Tuesday, September 5. The Parrot, Forest Green. A damp end to the season, but it didn't actually rain. For a few spectators we danced our way through many traditions, stopping only

once in each, or was it twice? We enjoyed a friendly evening of average quality dancing.

Present: Fran, Julia, John P, Jim B, John W, John E, Dick, David, Mick, Chris, Alan.

Saturday September 30/Sunday October 1. Robin's Deep Mercia tour. Robin and Isabel Aitken welcomed a TVMM party to their home in Acton Beauchamp from Friday evening, which began with an evening meal, beer, wine, cider and a late-night cough mixture tasting. For some reason the promised showing of "Cowboys and Aliens" with Daniel Craig didn't happen.

Dancing began on Saturday at The Rose & Lion, Bromyard, followed by The Live & Let Live at Whitbourne and The Unity Brew House at Suckley, where the beers were enthusiastically tested. Two representatives from Faithful City MM joined in the dancing and there was a surprise visit from Stan & Hilary Kilby.

Tea & cakes at Sevington Cottages, were followed by an enthusiastic session in a shoe box-sized room at The Major's Arms, Halmonds Frome (it was raining enthusiastically outside). The rain continued into Sunday morning and a planned visit to the 12th century Acton Beauchamp Parish Church was cancelled despite protests from the Bagman. Wine and brandy from the Frome Valley Vineyard were tasted at Paunton Court, in the presence of American House Guests from the Guggenheim LA, and a young couple from Lourdes on work experience. Then to The Green Dragon at Bishops Frome, (opposite a superb collection of decaying lorries and fork lift trucks) for dancing lunch and more dancing.

Present: Robin and Robin, Phil and Phil, John W, John E, Chris, Alan, Mike V, Dave C, Champ, Jan and Nick O.

Saturday October 8. Oatlands Scouts' Beer Festival. This was Alan's first outing as the solo musician, playing for about an hour without repeats. The number of punters at the Festival gradually overtook the number of Morris Men between 3.00 and 4.30.

Present: Alan, John W, John E, Champ, Dick, Mick, David, Phil M, Sam.