

# THE LOG BOOK OF THE THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN 1952-1977

## THE FIRST TWENTYFIVE YEARS

1952/53

Early in 1952 the Claygate Group of the English Folk Dance and Song Society received an invitation from the Claygate Flower Show organisers to organise open air dancing with, perhaps, demonstration dancing as part of the Show in July 1952.

The invitation was accepted. Attempts were made to secure the help of Morris sides in London and other parts of Surrey. None could come.

Local men with friends from Chertsey, Walton, Wimbledon and Dulwich decided to practise and perform dances for a short programme. George Lawrence, Gordon Ralph, Phillip Silvester, Bevis Colmer, John Glaister, John Blancheflower and Cyril Smith danced the Abram Bush dance, 29th May, Fool's Jig and Beaux of London City to the music of Mrs Dibbens and Martin Jolley as part of a general dancing programme on the Recreation Ground, Claygate on 19th July 1952.

This led to the calling of a meeting and practice at the Foley Hall, Claygate on 24th October 1952. In addition to the names mentioned Ted Perry, Wilfred Morris, Christopher Penton, Norman Keam, Norman Godwin and Jim Brooks attended and it was seen that a Morris side could be firmly and enthusiastically established. Christopher Penton had instructing as well as dancing experience, as also had John Glaister. Several other men had had some earlier experience. The rest were complete novices.

Practices of this kind and at the same place took place on Friday 28th November, Friday 12th December, 30th January 1953, 13th February (at Walton-on-Thames), 20th March and 1st May. The pattern of these practices was mostly Morris followed by dancing with the ladies, many of whom attended with their menfolk. Refreshments were arranged and members of the side showed a taste for the apple pies of Mrs E.M. Smith of Claygate. Music was provided at various times by Harry Gardener of Bookham, Mr and Mrs Frankel of Claygate and, principally, by Martin Jolley.

1st May 1953 was regarded as the date of the inaugural meeting. (Minutes attached). A number of invitations to perform during the summer of 1953 had been received. These were considered and accepted and a programme was sketched out. The provisional name of Mid Surrey Men's Morris was changed to Thames Valley Morris Men by unanimous decision. The Side's repertory comprised 29th May, Rigs o' Marlow, Fool's Jig, Nutting Girl, Lads a Buncham, How d'ye do, sir. The Flamborough Sword Dance was added later.

The first public appearance of the Thames Valley Morris Men was on Saturday 9th May at the Twilight Homes, Staines. With the ladies, folk dancing was added to the Morris dancing.

A practice was held in the garden of 55 Hare Lane, Claygate on Friday 22nd May.

On Whit Monday 25th May at Tiffins School, Kingston, on a sweltering hot afternoon we performed the Morris.

On Saturday 6th June at Claygate in connection with Coronation celebrations and in conjunction with the Claygate Group, EFDSS, Morris and Flamborough was added to a full programme of folk and general dancing.

On Saturday 13th June, at a school, where Wilfrid Morris, a member of the side, is a teacher, we danced Morris as an item in a public square dance called by John Glaister, another member. This was at Ashford, Middx.

On Tuesday 23rd June the Side provided, with a certain amount of trouble, a team of six men only to dance Morris at a church function in Finnart House, Weybridge.

On Saturday 4th July the same plan as at Claygate on 6th June was carried out at the very ambitious Stoke d'Abernon Fair.

The following Saturday, 11th July, after Morris at Beverley School, New Malden, the Side returned to Claygate Flower Show (our first birthday as a Side) to perform briefly amid rather confused general dancing in a marquee - the weather was bad for the first time in the Side's history.

On Saturday 18th July the Side danced Morris, sword, Newcastle and La Russe at Chipstead Flower Show. Help was given by two folk dancers from the crowd on this occasion. We were also under the eye of two prominent E.F.D.S.S, officials.

The season closed with a big effort on Tuesday 18th August. The Side danced Morris on Weybridge Cricket Green, left the general dancing that followed and carried out their programme at Addlestone Village Carnival. The men returned later to Weybridge to dance, slake their thirst and congratulate one another on an extremely enjoyable summer's dancing - and, we think, a successful one.

Throughout the whole summer, to the regret of everyone, Christopher Penton had been out of the Side - first by reason of absence abroad and later, illness.

Several members of the Side gained great help, enjoyment and even inspiration by joining with the Beaux of London City Morris Men when they danced at the Wheatsheaf on Esher Green on Saturday 27th June. This was the last pitch of a long day's dancing by the Beaux and they relaxed in company with the Thames Valley Morris Men in the Wheatsheaf.

The Side met every Friday for practice throughout the winter of 1953/1954 at Newlands College, Claygate. The men are very grateful to Mrs Sylvester for playing the (very fine grand) piano for them during these months - and to Mrs Smith for supplying refreshments. On one or two occasions Mrs Dibbens came to play her accordion as well as the piano. By great good luck, it was possible to buy a number of very good white straw hats very cheaply. So, designed by Mrs Penton and made by her and Mrs Smith with help from the morris men's womenfolk, the costume became white straw hats decorated in blue and gold with baldricks and fringed bellpads in the same colours worn over white shirts and trousers.

## **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

### **Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men was held on 1st May 1953 at the Foley Hall, Hare Lane, Claygate, Surrey.**

This Side has met and practised for a year but was formally constituted on this occasion. Those present were: Messrs Lawrence, Ralph, Keam, Perry, Godwin, Morris, Brooks, Thorpe, Sylvester, John Glaister and C.D.Smith.

A list of invitations to perform was considered and, provisionally, accepted. Details of title, organisation, costume and finance were discussed. It was decided each member should contribute 2/- to the Side's funds at each practice and to charge, in normal circumstances, two guineas to perform, A suggestion that the Side's provisional title (Mid-Surrey Men's Morris) should be changed to Thames Valley Morris Men was unanimously accepted.

The choosing of officers was postponed. C.D.Smith undertook secretarial duties for the time being and George Lawrence was to hold the purse.

The illness of Dr. C. Penton, who had helped the Side so much, was reported and it was resolved to send him a message of goodwill and hope for speedy recovery.

The meeting then closed.

(Signed)

C.D.Smith.

## **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate on Friday 18th September 1953.**

Present - Messrs Lawrence, Glaister, Sylvester, Perry, Ralph, Keam, Brooks and C.D.Smith. Christopher Penton, on holiday, wrote expressing regret at absence. Christopher Ridley and Ian Reid were welcome new members. Norman Godwin, who attended, offered his resignation (on leaving the district) as also did Wilfrid Morris, who wrote saying other activities prevented his continued membership. These were accepted with great regret. Bevis Colmer, a member of the East Surrey Morris Men, was welcome, as always, as a visitor.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. Correspondence consisted of expressions of thanks and appreciation from officials of the various organisations for whom we had danced during the summer.

Treasurer's report was given and accepted. Cash in hand £12.10.0.

Report of the Side's activities is contained in the Log and was taken as read.

The invitation from Mr. L. Constantinedes to use for practice a room in his school, Newlands College, Claygate was accepted gratefully.

Resolved to meet for practice weekly on Fridays at 7.30pm starting on 25th September 1953.

Resolved to add to the repertory the following: Trunkles, Brighton Camp, Lumps of Black Pudding, Jockey to the Fair, None so Pretty, Ladies Pleasure, Wheatley Processional, and "Brooks' Fancy Processional off.

Resolved to pay 1/- each at each practice.

Resolved to alter the costume by the addition (to white flannels) of decorated opera hats, uniform baldricks in royal blue and gold, uniform bell pads.

Resolved to write to the officers of the Morris Ring telling them of the Side's existence and informing them of our intention to affiliate at some future date. The possibility of attending the Monday Morris meeting at Cecil Sharp House as individuals or as a side was discussed.

Resolved to regard this meeting as the Annual General Meeting and to elect officers.

Christopher Penton was elected Squire, George Lawrence treasurer and C.D.Smith bagman. When dancing, if the Squire is absent or incapacitated (as he is at present, unhappily) the man dancing Number 1 shall be deputy squire.

The meeting closed and Morris practice continued.

## **1954 Log - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

The first public performance of 1954 was given at a country dance party at Littlewick Green near Maidenhead on 27th February.

The next performance, 31st March, was private - at a class at Twickenham of the local group EFDSS members. Here the new costume was first worn and, here afterwards in the saloon bar of a public house nearby one or two jigs were danced, impromptu, for the amusement of fellow-drinkers.

On 1st May the Side demonstrated at a scouts' fete at Old Windsor. In the absence of a musician, music was found among the Side's members. The Squire played his flute and concertina, Christopher Ridley played his melodeon and amplified gramophone music was also used.

On 21st May the Side gave a brief show at country dance class where George Lawrence is instructor at Weston Green.

The following day, 22nd May, the Side performed as an interlude in the dancing which followed the inaugural A.G.M. of the Kingston/ Thames Valley District of the E.F.D.S.S. This took place in the very handsome rooms of the Guildhall, Kingston-upon-Thames.

On the 29th May a demonstration was to have been an item in Claygate Village Fete. The turf was, however, waterlogged and the dancing was taken to the Lantern Hall, Claygate.

The following day, Sunday 30th May, the Side carried out its first tour - dancing at the Anchor, Wisley; the Seven Stars, Pyrford and the New Inn, Send. Martin Jolley played his fiddle and Bevis Colmer, of the East Surrey Morris Men, played the Fool. The tour was enjoyable and profitable and made the men look forward to the next one.

Some organisational difficulties were encountered in arranging and carrying out the next engagement - at Brockham Green Elizabethan Fair on 26th June. Martin Jolley, at some trouble, came to play at the appointed time, 6pm, when the Side was told that a further performance was required at 8pm. Once again the Side provided its own music and this time Philip Sylvester came in with his concertina.

Jim Brooks had been asked to teach the Morris to the young boys of a Thames Ditton Wolf Cub pack. This he did with great success. Costumes were fitted out and the traditional characters added to the dancers. At a dress rehearsal of the boys, the Morris men came to help. The occasion was delightful: the boys were most engaging and were much inspired by the men. The boys performed at their own Fete and again on 3rd July as an item in the Thames Valley District's Children's Festival in Kingston. Here, too, Jim Brooks danced solo jigs with great skill to the admiration of spectators.

In the evening of that day, after general dancing on the Green, the Morris men joined the Beaux of London City in a joint show at Esher. This was the last 'pitch' of the Beaux after a long, strenuous and successful tour around Surrey. The two sides

feasted together in the Wheatsheaf, the Thames Valley Men were hosts and formal speeches were made.

10th July was the occasion of a strenuous tour of our own. In the afternoon we danced at a Weybridge garden fete. Then we were the guests of the Chertsey EFDSS group. Afterwards shows were given at the carpenters Arms, Chertsey; the Golden Horn, Chertsey; the Rose and Crown, Thorpe and the Feathers, Laleham. On this tour the Bagman essayed the role of Fool - dressed in a magnificent coat and bells of Mrs Penton's design and make and Ron Duncombe had a preliminary run as a Betty.

The Side danced Morris as an interlude in dancing at Chertsey on 23rd July and again at Claygate Flower Show the following evening. This marked, exactly, two years of the Side's existence.

The last demonstration of the summer was at Hook Flower Show on 28th July. We joined with members of the Claygate EFDSS group to dance country dances also.

Practices were not continued through August but on 21st August the men met to arrange transport to the Coventry Ring meeting – to which all look forward keenly.

The Side's members now are: Squire Christopher Penton, John Glaister, Ted Perry, Jim Perry, Norman Keam, Gordon Ralph, George Lawrence, Philip Sylvester, Christopher Ridley, Ron Duncombe, Cyril Smith. Ian Reid, who joined most recently, is not a full member of the Side.

It had been decided that the costumes remain the property of the Side and should be 'awarded' to a new man only at a certain stage in his experience. It was also decided that the Side is not open for any new members at present unless an experienced Morris dancer moves into the Thames Valley and wishes to join.

The twelve full members of the Side duly went to the Coventry' Ring meeting. It is hard to say which was greater - the enjoyment or the benefit to the Side's dancing skill. Returning by road a stop for tea was made at Ayno. We danced, a crowd gathered and the bag was refilled.

Weekly practice continued throughout the winter.

At this time Ian Reid dropped out. Peter Dashwood of Woking and Brian Whitaker of the Leeds Men joined us for an occasional evening. Bill Tofts of Walton joined as an 'apprentice' member.

On Boxing Day 1954, fortunately very sunny and mild, the Side toured the five public houses in Claygate. This was a great success in all respects. It was on this occasion the new Horse was on public view for the first time: it is the product of the ingenuity and skill of Ron Duncombe and Mrs Penton. Bill Tofts, as the Betty, was a persuasive collector. £5 was given to Claygate Village Hall Association and £5 to the E.F.D.S.S.

During the autumn Phillip Sylvester bought a piano accordion and by January 1955 had made so much progress that the Side could then rely on him very largely for music. The Squire, John Glaister, Christopher Ridley all played on occasion. George

Lawrence also bought pipes and by the same date had made certain progress in playing them. Therefore, to the great relief and pleasure of us all, the Side is self-sufficient in portable music.

## **1955 Log - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

On 27th January 1955 the Side was told of its admission to the Morris Ring of England.

Practices continued weekly at Newlands College, Claygate.

On 30th April, Ron Smedley and Rowland Howells of the Beaux of London City and Leslie Nichols of Greensleeves as well as several non-dancing friends were the Side's guests at an Ale held at Claygate British Legion Hall. Our ladies provided food and Mrs Duncombe baked a fine decorated cake. Toasts were drunk and dancing continued all evening.

The Side attended the Brighton Ring meeting on 7th May touring Rottingdean, Newhaven, Alfriston, Polegate and Laughton in company with London Rodney and Orpington. The programme followed the usual Very enjoyable pattern.

On 15th May we had a short evening tour - Burford Bridge, Ockley and, most enjoyably, the Crown, Alford. Certain route finding difficulties marked the beginning of this trip.

A landmark in the development of the Thames Valley Morris Men occurred at the Thaxted Ring meeting held on 20/22 May 1955. Men proceeded independently at various times to Thaxted on the Friday evening and by nightfall the following had arrived: Ron Duncombe, Phil Sylvester, George Lawrence, Gordon Ralph, Jim Brooks, Norman Keam, John Glaister and Bill Tofts. The last five, being hardy types, camped in the Vicar's orchard, the others being provided with accommodation through arrangements made by the Thaxted Men. Two members enjoyed the hospitality of Fred Caton, a veteran of the Thaxted club. A buffet supper was provided, the campers safely installed and the local brew had been sampled before retiring for the night.

After breakfast next morning the strength of the Side was increased by the arrival of Squire Christopher Penton accompanied by his wife and the various tours set off about 10.30am.

We joined the Westminster and Hartley teams; Alec Hunter, squire of Thaxted and first squire of the Ring, being our guide. The first stop was at Finchingfield where Ted Perry caught up the party. A delightful programme of dances was performed in fine weather. The Thames Valley hobby horse and the Westminster Unicorn provided amusing diversions. The next stop was at Long Melford where, after a couple of dances it was necessary to repair to the local inn on account of a sharp shower. It was possible to do a few more dances after the rain had stopped before an excellent lunch was enjoyed at the same inn. More dancing followed lunch and we finally departed from the centre of Long Melford at about 2.30pm. This was only to be followed by an unexpected stop about half a mile away where two or three dances were performed before a small crowd in a particularly pretty setting. The next scheduled stop was at Cavendish where a very full programme was carried through, including the Flowers of Edinburgh, despite displaced cartilages in the Thames Valley team. Press

photographers were accommodated in the matter of processions and background. Another whistle stop took place at Clare, where the Thames Valley team danced on their own for a short time, while the other teams found other places for a similar purpose. Back to Thaxted by 4.45pm, tea was taken and the various tours assembled for the Thaxted performance. Our tour performed the Castleton Garland dance (having previously been instructed by Alec Hunter on tour and music having been found over the tea table) and a very large crowd watched massed and other dancing till 7.30pm. During the course of this programme the Thames Valley Morris Men danced their way into the Ring with Constant Billy (Headington). The quality of the performances may not all have been superb but no-one, least of all the Essex Constabulary, could question the vigour with which the Black Joke (Adderbury) was subsequently performed.

The Feast followed at the church hall at 8pm and after a small supply of ale had, with difficulty, been obtained and quickly consumed, our Squire received his staff of office from Donald Cassels, squire of the Ring, as a symbol of our admission. Sporadic dancing then broke out all over the town and continued till closing time and bed.

Sunday morning breakfast was followed by High Mass at Thaxted Parish Church, celebrated by the vicar, Father Jack Putterill, the Morris stalwart. Here five of the Thames Valley men found themselves in unfamiliar roles when called upon to carry a banner and candles in the procession which was part of the service. Certain difficulties with the lighting arrangements almost caused a crisis but our usual resourcefulness avoided the threatened catastrophe. After the service more informal dancing took place in the main street and elsewhere and the Thames Valley musician, still far from adept, excelled himself -offering to help one or the most expert fiddlers in the movement through Bobbing Around.

After lunch arrangements were made for the return journey in company with the Hartley Men and Martin Jolley. Setting off in convoy about 2pm a halt was made at a cross roads at Leaden Roding. We danced here until the traffic became too congested and pushed on to Moreton by country roads. Dancing here included several jigs and tea was then taken at an adjoining cafe. The next stop was in the forecourt of an hotel at North Weald, but here the traffic congestion proved so bad that after a few dances, acting on police advice we went on to Epping Green. This was probably the best position of the day and we danced for over half an hour to a very large crowd. The bag was very good and we said goodbye to the Hartley men after a drink in the local and then returned home.

On Whit Monday 30th May, we toured Bookham and Effingham in the morning, demonstrated at Cobham Red Cross fete in the afternoon, accepted gratefully the Squire's hospitality to tea, repeated the Cobham performance, danced a few dances especially for George Lawrence's mother at Thames Ditton and finished the day at the Marquis of Granby and the Harrow at Weston Green.

We demonstrated at Claygate fete on 4th June. Regrettably the Squire was absent.

During the general dancing on Weybridge Cricket Green on Friday 10th June we danced Morris as an interlude.

The following day, 11th June, we joined in the Windsor Day of Dance. Returning in the evening, the Side Was joined by Jim Brooks and Cyril Smith, who had been attending the Children's Festival of the Thames Valley District, EFDSS, at Kingston: they had danced jigs and Jim Brooks' Wolf Cubs had danced the Morris and toured the Bridge Hotel, Chertsey and the Anchor, Shepperton. Later still, a demonstration was given at a Scouts' social organised by Ted Perry at Staines.

On 18th June we demonstrated at the West Surrey District, EFDSS, festival at Bradstone Brook, Shalford.

On 24th June we danced an interlude in a Chertsey EFDSS outdoor square dance.

The next day Ron Duncombe and Cyril Smith were spectators of the Beaux of London City Morris Men at Cobham and Esher.

On Tuesday evening 28th June we gave a demonstration at a Women's Institute party at Laleham and another on Saturday 2nd July at a Weybridge church garden party in aid of the building fund for Guildford Cathedral.

The Side attended the London Ring meeting of 8/10th July. We were without the Squire who was at the International Folk Dance Festival at Oslo. The happenings at this meeting are history. Our tour in company with a section of London Pride took us through Kensington and Holland Park.

On the 16th July we took part in the Thames Valley District, EFDSS, festival (or picnic) dance in Claremont Wood, Esher.

The next day, Sunday 17th July, we repeated the previous year's Pyrford tour but changed to the Black Swan, Martyrs Green, instead of the New Inn, Send.

Not wishing to weary our neighbours we refrained from dancing the Morris at Claygate Flower Show although it was our third birthday. Members took part, of course, in the usual country and square dancing.

On 5th August we demonstrated at a private garden party arranged by Martin Jolley and we were joined for Nutting Girl by three East Surrey Men.

On Saturday 3rd September a number of the men and their ladies joined other members of the side at a camp at Send, taking part in country dancing and showing the Morris.

Saturday 17th September was the evening tour arranged by Ted Perry starting at the Bells of Ouzley, Old Windsor, calling at the Anchor, Egham and finishing, fairly uproariously, at the Feathers, Laleham.

The following Saturday 24th September was the very successful St.Albans tour. We had a good turnout, dancing was plentiful, stops frequent, lunch, tea and feast enjoyable and the return late.

Weekly practices started at the end of September and, a little surprisingly, the men decided to accept an invitation to dance a Morris as an incident in the Claygate Dramatic Society's production of "Lady Audley's Secret." The two rehearsals and two performances proved successful and enjoyable.

At the end of practice on Friday 28th October the Annual General Meeting of the Side was held. Christopher Penton was confirmed in office as Squire as also were Cyril Smith and George Lawrence as Joint Bagmen. Next year's plans were sketched out.

On 2nd December Jim Brooks danced some jigs at the Thames Valley, EFDSS, District young people's Christmas party. A team from Surbiton County Grammar School also danced some Morris - proving that they had, at any rate, made a good start.

An evening tour of demonstrations at Hospitals in Walton, Ottershaw and Virginia Water was arranged by John Glaister and carried out on 10th December. Most of the Side returned to John's to supper and more Morris.

The practice on 16th December became a party. The ladies were present and had provided a feast. We welcomed an old friend of some of the men, James Sowerby, as a guest.

During this autumn we were glad to welcome to the Side Denis Salt, who had been dancing Morris in the Midlands. Michael Morton, who dances with Oxford University during term, joins us during vacations.

For the second year we toured the five public houses in Claygate on Boxing Day, 1955. Heavy rain delayed the start but it cleared and we enjoyed the same success as the year before. We hope to make this tour traditional.

## **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

### **Minutes of the annual general meeting held in the Griffin, Claygate, on 28th October 1955.**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.
2. The Treasurer's report was accepted. In hand £11 - 19 - 1.
3. The log of the Side was read and, as a record of activities, was approved.
4. Christopher Penton was re-elected squire and George Lawrence and Cyril Smith elected Joint Bagmen.
5. Plans for 1956 were outlined. The following provisional plans were made:
  - (a) Hospital tour 10th December.
  - (b) Feast in April.
  - (c) Boxing Day Claygate tour.
  - (d) Mid May evening tour.
  - (e) Thaxted.
  - (f) Whit Monday 21st May Bampton.
  - (g) Pyrford tour July.
  - (h) Laleham August Saturday evening tour.
  - (i) Alford and Horsham day tour.
  - (j) ?Bookham Community activity.
  - (k) ?Maidenhead tour.

(l) "Ladies Pleasure" in February or March.

6. Under Any Other Business

(a) Decided to suggest Kingston/Hampton Court tour to the Ring for 1957.

(b) Decided to help with West Surrey EFDSS dance on Weybridge Green in June 1956.

(c) Decided to accept Squire's invitation to practise music at his home occasionally.

(d) Decided to inscribe the Ring Staff.

(e) Decided to support Jim Brooks's training of Wolf Cubs as strongly as possible.

(f) The Treasurer's method of estimating money demands of and making payments to members was approved.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

(Signed) Christopher Penton.

## **1956 Log - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

7th January. The Squire and Joint-bagman Cyril Smith attended the Ring meeting at Cecil Sharp House. Here the Kingston-upon-Thames meeting was first mooted.

18th January. Morris demonstration at a youth club dance where John Glaister was the caller.

20th January. The Side gave a long and carefully described (by the Squire) demonstration to staff and patients at St George's Hospital, Westminster.

23rd January. Demonstration at New Malden Townswomen's Guild meeting at the invitation of a member, our Mrs Keam.

23rd March. Together with an EFDSS country dance team the Side demonstrated at a show at Wimbledon arranged by the National Council of Physical Recreation. Between two performances we did a little street dancing.

24th March. We had our Ale at the Foley Hall, Claygate. The Squire of the Ring, Donald Cassels, was our guest as also were men from St Albans, East Surrey and London Pride.

28th April. First Kingston-upon-Thames evening tour, dancing at the Outrigger, a pub in Fairfield and the Angler. This tour was not a big success, the weather being extremely cold. The Fool's nose was very red - art or nature?

12th May. The Westminster Day - enjoyed by all.

21st May. Almost every member was able to go early to Bampton to watch the traditional Morris of that village. This was most instructive as well as enjoyable. In the afternoon we demonstrated Morris at a school in aid of church funds in an extremely lovely setting at the invitation of the aunt of the Squire. After several dancing stops en route we were proud to join the Headington Quarry Men to watch and also to dance. We danced a couple more stops on the way home.

2nd June. We joined a combined country dance and morris tour arranged by the Chertsey EFDSS group in New Haw, Walton-on-Thames and Chertsey. During the afternoon six men and a musician broke away to give a much appreciated demonstration at Esher parish church Elizabethan Fair held at Milburn, Esher.

8th June. In cold wet weather we gave a short demonstration at Hawkers Sports ground, Kingston, as an item in a Youth Week display. Country dancing and a demonstration on Weybridge cricket green arranged for later in the evening had to be cancelled on account of rain.

9th June. Jim Brooks and Norman Keam danced some jigs at the EFDSS Children's Festival at Kingsnympton, Kingston.

19th June. Dancing and demonstration at a camp arranged by some of our men at Send, Surrey.

15th June. The weather was glorious during Friday when members of the Side travelled by road independently to Bath, to assemble and camp at nearby Kelston. Early arrivals, led by the Squire, met some members of the newly formed Bathampton Morris Men in Abbey Churchyard and thereafter made an enjoyable dancing tour of the city.

During the night the heavy rainstorms started. Breakfast was taken and camp struck on Saturday morning in a downpour. In a lull we danced for friends at Harptree.

Despite the rain we took the Morris to the tourists in Cheddar Gorge - who, we felt, were not very appreciative. At Wells it was quite different: a very enthusiastic crowd gathered at the first jingle. A downpour sent us in search of tea.

At Street, as private guests, we were again sent indoors by rain but had, instead, Schloer and a concert of folk singing and playing.

Dancing at Glastonbury? No, another downpour. So back to Wells - there's gold in that ther' Wells. However it was still too wet without, so we decided to wet within - the Crown. An hour later, returning to the cars, naturally we danced. Oddly, the flood light in the car park came on and an hilarious and, thanks to the indefatigably itching palm of Peter, profitable session closed the day. We camped the night near Wookey Hole.

A visit to Hambridge was the focal point of our tour. There we drove in better weather on Sunday morning, taking a brief look at Huish Episcopi and Muchelney Abbey en route.

We attended, in costume, a most impressive celebration of Mass in Hambridge church. The vicar, Archdeacon Hilder, preached a sermon on pattern and rhythm in life, spiritual and material, and cited the Morris as illustration.

After the service we gathered on the vicarage lawn and danced the Morris to Father Hilder's guests from the village. This garden is historic. Here it was that Cecil Sharp, while a guest of the then incumbent his friend Father Marsden, had his attention drawn to the folk singing of the gardener and others. This, I believe, was the beginning of Cecil Sharp's researches into folk singing and playing.

Father Wilmot, the present vicar's predecessor, was present and told us tales of Cecil Sharp's friend Father Marsden - who was, clearly, a "character". He painted a sign for the local New Inn on a very curious piece of timber. On one side was a lamb, on the other a lion - in like a lamb, out like a lion! The new sign replacing the original is in a whimsical style and so not altogether to the taste of some of our party. In this Inn we had a warm welcome, good country fare for lunch and more dancing. Leaving for home, I almost at once ran out of petrol but reached a garage in a remote hamlet near Martock. The proprietor said: "Have you been dancing over at Hambridge where Cecil Sharp used to stay?" His name is Dawson and he claimed acquaintance with William Ganiford.

Passing through Montacute I think we noted a White Horse Morris poster for the following Saturday.

We paused for dancing at Sherborne, Shaftsbury, Salisbury and Winchester. We trust the White Horse Men and the Winchester Men will forgive us this trespass on their territory. It was unplanned.

We were amused and pleased to hear ourselves described, at our demonstration some time later at Bradstone Brook, as "the Thames Valley Morris Men recently returned from their successful Somerset tour."

21st June. A big trade union were entertaining Russian visitors to a function in Wandsworth Town Hall. Together with an EFDSS country dance team, we gave a demonstration. The Squire was able to give descriptions of the dances in Russian!

23rd June. Demonstration at the West Surrey EFDSS Festival at Bradstone Brook. Afterwards we had a most enjoyable and profitable session at the pub at Shelford.

30th June. Demonstration at Thames Valley EFDSS Festival. Although suffering a bad moment in one dance, we retrieved the situation by successfully 'standing in' for some sword dancers.

6th July. Claygate Girl Guides lost headquarters and equipment by fire. All local organisations arranged shows to help them. We toured Claygate - with only six dancers and a musician. Dancing continuously for 3½ hours produced €18 and complete exhaustion!

7th July. Demonstrated at Weybridge Church Fair in the afternoon. In the evening we carried out our 'traditional' Laleham tour.

21st July. After a demonstration, unfortunately indoors because of rain, at Thames Ditton church fete we went on to an (outdoors) demonstration at Hook Flower Show. After that, the Claygate men went back for country dancing at their own Flower Show - our fourth birthday.

22nd July. The 'traditional' Pyrford tour- starting very pleasantly with a demonstration on the lawn of the old farmhouse where live Denis Salt and Peter Dashwood. Bill's car could use a little more room in the drive, however! This year we danced at the Huts, Wisley, instead of the Seven Stars, Pyrford. This is not a good idea: motorists, pausing to watch, completely blocked the Portsmouth Road!

28th July. Demonstration at Clandon Flower Show and, in the evening, a demonstration at a school in Morden for the benefit of some Norwegian visitors. Between times, we had another delightful tea on the lawn of Peter and Denis.

26th July. Demonstration at Holloway Hospital, Virginia Water, followed by outdoor dancing at the Rose and Crown, Thorpe.

11th September. A Tuesday, had an extra practice at Claygate in preparation for the Abingdon Ring meeting.

15th September. Abingdon Ring meeting. This extremely well attended meeting provided a great deal of dancing but few spectators. On our tour we were joined by Burton-on-Trent, Whitchurch and some Newcastle Men. For all these our musicians provided the music - much of it completely new to them: a considerable feat.

22nd September. Attended the 'new' Lichfield tradition seminar at Cecil Sharp House.

20th October. Demonstration at a Townswomen's Guild meeting at Chertsey and at a dance in Addlestone.

9th November. We danced the Morris at a country dance at Pyrford arranged by Peter and Denis for the West Surrey District EFDSS.

1st December. Demonstration at Halliford Women's Institute social at St Mary's Hall, Sunbury.

26th December. Claygate Boxing Day tour. Drizzling rain but a full and successful programme carried through.

During the latter part of the summer continued efforts were made to arrange accommodation for the Kingston Ring meeting. Despite the difficulty we were urged at the Abingdon Ring meeting to continue our search.

#### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the annual general meeting held at Newlands College, Gordon Rd., Claygate on Friday 2nd November 1956.**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM read, agreed and signed.
2. Correspondence. Many letters of thanks for demonstrations given by the Side during the last year were taken as read; as also was correspondence between the Ring bagman and the Side - largely relating to the projected Ring meeting at Kingston in September 1957.
3. Treasurer's report was accepted. In hand £27.
4. The log of activities was taken as read and accepted as the annual report.
5. Christopher Penton was re-elected Squire and George Lawrence and Cyril Smith joint bagmen.
6. Plans for the following year were decided on in outline.
7. Expressions were made of the Side's continuing gratitude to Mr Constantinedes for the use of the room and the piano at Newlands College. It was resolved to offer to Mr Constantinedes a trophy or some other gift to the school as a mark of our thanks.
8. A motion that our costume be altered to include breeches instead of white trousers resulted in a vote of 6 for and 6 against with one abstention. The suggestion was, therefore, dropped for the time being. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

(Signed) Christopher Penton.

## **1957 Log - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

2nd February. The side enjoyed very much indeed the Ravensbourne Men's Ale held at Beckenham.

8th February. Morris again at the Pyrford country dance.

6th April. Our own Ale held in the Foley Hall, Claygate. A number of men from East Surrey and two Westminster men were our guests.

4th May. The Side took part in the Portchester May Day celebrations. A coach was hired and our families came with us. We danced at Wickham and Titchfield and Stubbington en route and at Petersfield while returning in the evening. The very picturesque May Queen Crowning Pageant arranged by the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry, in which we took part, was photographed for television and shown during the following week. An enjoyable outing was marred a little by the very cold weather.

11th May. A number of the Side attended the Westminster Day in London. The remainder could not go because the date clashed with the AGM of the Kingston District EFDSS.

26th May. As in previous years, a number of the men were camping at Send and during the Sunday afternoon others joined them for country dancing and Morris.

1st June. A team attended the Windsor Day of Dancing.

7th June. A Morris interlude in the country dancing on Weybridge Cricket Green.

8th June. After dancing Morris at a (unhappily badly organised fete, which was televised) at Ash Park, Shepperton the Side carried out the rest of the annual Laleham tour. After the Crown Square, Shepperton we danced at the Woolpack, Staines, and the Feathers, Laleham.

10th June. Whit Monday tour - Cobham (where we were joined by a team of very small boys, rapidly becoming good Morris dancers under the instruction of some of our men) first at the BR station, then at the Tilt. We danced at Hatchford school for disabled children and then went on to Rowley Bristow Hospital, Ockham, Ripley and Pyrford.

15th June. We undertook a rather heavy programme. By dividing the team and joining it again we danced at Ewell (EFDSS) Weybridge (Scouts) Hampton (EFDSS) and took part in country dancing demonstrations and Morris at Kingston Hospital fete. Returning we stopped for drink and Morris at the Outrigger, Kingston, and the Angel, Thames Ditton. This last was perhaps our most successful and enjoyable Morris occasion.

22nd June. While taking part as country dancers and Morris dancers in the Chertsey EFDSS group's Walton tour (Addlestone, Chertsey, Laleham) a team broke off and danced a Morris interlude in the East Surrey EFDSS Festival at Reigate.

28th June. A team attended and enjoyed the very successful Ring meeting at Winchester.

29th June. Morris at Kingsnympton.

4th July. Morris interlude at Ranworth pageant.

6th July. Cyril Smith was a spectator at the first two stops of the Beaux of London tour.

Morris interlude at Molesey SJAB Carnival, Molesey. Claygate EFDSS group had a garden dance in the evening but the weather was so stormy that there was no time for the Morris.

13th July. Most unhappily the West Surrey Bradstone Brook country dance festival had to be held indoors at Guildford. We contributed our usual Morris demonstration.

17th July. We were to have shown the Morris at Byfleet fete but because of daylong rain the event was cancelled.

20th July. We provided Morris interludes at St Mary, Ditton, fete and Kingston EFDSS District festival at Hampton Wick - both indoors because of bad weather.

24th July. Morris interlude at a (commercial) horse and dog show at Esher and at a Woking Research fete. We were the guests of our Squire and Mrs Penton to tea. Afterwards we went on what had to be, unhappily, George Lawrence's farewell tour. We danced at the Anglers, Walton, found no room to dance at Hampton Court so went on to the Angel, Dittons. We here had an hilarious party, during which our Squire presented George with our parting gift - a set of the Morris "books.

6<sup>th</sup> September. Cyril Smith attended, alone, the Derby Ring meeting. His companions on a tour were Greensleeves, Westminster, North Skelton and one Hartley man.

21st September. Kingston-upon-Thames One-Day Ring Meeting. All members of the Side had carried out 'recces' for the eight tours arranged and the plan was carried out fully as set out in the attached programme. Kings College, Newcastle, attended after the programme was printed. Morley College and Farnborough Men were unable to come. Rain stopped at about 10am and the weather held fine but dull. 150 men attended and danced in Canbury Gardens, Kingston. The feast was a success and was attended by the Mayor of Kingston (Miss Anderson), Alderman and Mrs Lines, Mrs Penton and Mr Constantinedes as guests. Bill Sassie, Squire of the Ring presided and Ring Bagman, Russell Wortley also came.

7th October. Morris demonstration at St Mathew Church Guild, Tolworth.

Late in December. Four of the men with their ladies were the guests of the Westminster Morris Men at a country dance party.

Boxing Day 1957. Fifteen men turned out for the most successful Claygate pub tour. George Lawrence, now of Colchester Morris Men, was with us.

**THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Newlands, Claygate, on Friday 18th October, 1957.**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read, agreed and signed.
  2. Correspondence from a number of clubs regarding the Ring meeting of 21st September were read. It was decided to accept the invitation of Westminster Men to their Ale, to accept Windsor Group EFDSS to their Day of Dancing but to decline the invitation of Staines T.G.
  3. Treasurer's Report was accepted with thanks to the Assistant Bagman, Ron Duncombe, for its preparation. In hand £27.
  4. It was resolved to give, through the Mayor of Kingston, to Kingston Parish Church, £5 - thus continuing the custom recorded in the Churchwarden's Accounts of 1507.
  5. The log, written up to date, was regarded as the annual report and taken as read.
  6. Christopher Penton, squire, and Cyril Smith, bagman, were re-elected. Ron Duncombe was confirmed in office as assistant bagman.
  7. A motion that the Side's costume be altered to include breeches again resulted in an even division of opinion and the matter was left open once more.
  9. Plans for the 1958 programme were discussed in outline. The plan to tour the Isle of Wight during next summer was decided on tentatively.
- The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

(Signed) Christopher Penton.

## **1958 Log - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

1st February. The Side was represented by the bagman at the Hunter Memorial service at Hoxton.

15th February. We entertained our ladies at a party in the Foley, Claygate - "Ladies Pleasure."

24th February. Nine men morris'd at an EFDSS country dance party at Reedhams School, Croydon, where Miss Morris takes a class.

28th February. Eleven men of the Side danced as an interlude in the Mayoral Reception at the Guildhall, Kingston-upon-Thames. This was a very glittering occasion. In the warming-up at a pub in the Apple Market the Squire danced in full evening dress.

22nd March. Three men attended the Morris and Rapper course at Cecil Sharp House.

29th March. Denis Salt was married and the side danced Morris at the wedding. Afterwards we went on a tour - New Haw and Woking with a long session at the Rowley Bristow Hospital. We were the guests to tea of the young Jones' (bagman's daughter).

3rd May. The Side again attended the Portchester May Queen ceremonies. We included in our show a short mummers play and sword dance composed by John Glaister. We morris'd at various places on the outward and homeward journeys.

10th May. We enjoyed again the Westminster Day and feast. A friend took a coloured cine film of our activities that day.

18th May. The Side went to Braziers Park (Oxon) to morris and country dance at a weekend school there.

30th May. The Claygate group EFDSS held a barbecue on Claygate Common - part of Jubilee celebrations. We added Morris to country, dancing and skiffle.

31st May. We morris'd at West Surrey's open air dancing at a most delightful spot by Guildford's bridge over the Wey. Local dancers gave us tea and we spent the evening, as often before, at the Anchor, Wisley.

7th June. Seven men went on the Windsor Day of Dance. This proved most strenuous but enjoyable. After being given high tea we went on, privately, to the Stanley Spencer art exhibition in Cookham church. Our Squire joined us there. The artist, Spencer, was most interested in the Morris and we danced for him, the vicar and many friends on the vicarage lawn - the church bell ringers thoughtfully stopping their practice in order that our music should be heard! Afterwards we danced in the main street and the pub-almost to the point of exhaustion.

14th June. We morris'd for the Oxshott Scouts in an exceptionally lovely woodland setting. On, then, to EFDSS Children's Festival at Kingsnympton. Back to a church

fete at Molesey- where we met a very old Morris man, a retired schoolmaster. We finished the evening, as we have before, at the Angel, Dittons.

21st June. We danced part of a demonstration at a municipal show at Fulham organised by EFDSS. We went on to dance at a country dance party held at the LCC Teachers' Training College at Cooper's Hill, Egham.

27th June. This was the weekend of the East Suffolk tour arranged by George Lawrence. The rendezvous was at George's home at Ipswich where many of the party bivouaced in the house and garage - the camp site being waterlogged. During Saturday we danced at Needham Market, Stowmarket, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Lavenham, Kersey and Hadleigh. In the evening by arrangement with and advertised by the Felixstowe Corporation we morris'd in a prepared arena on the seafront for about two hours to upwards of a thousand people. On Sunday we attended Holy Communion at Great Blackenham and afterwards morris'd. We struck a new note here by substituting Circassian Circle for Bonny Green Garters - drawing partners from the crowd. We went on to visit and dance at Dedham and Flatford Mill. And so home. Most successful expedition.

30th June. We morris'd briefly at Denis' school day at Byfleet.

5<sup>th</sup> July. We morris'd at a fete organised by the Lion Works on Woking Football Ground.

6th July. Several men went to Send to dance the Morris and country at a camp organised by the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry.

10th July~ The Side danced at a garden fete at the Vicarage, Norbiton, in aid of UNA and at the Thames Ditton Congregational church party - where, the weather being very hot, we danced in the roadway. On, then, to the Harrow, Thames Ditton.

12th July. We morris'd at the Royal School of Ball\$ Open Day at White Lodge, Richmond Park. The principal guest here was Mme de Valois who indicated great interest in the Morris.

16th July. We morris'd very late and rather briefly at Byfleet Parish Day.

16th July. The Side attended the Winchester Day of Dancing, their companions on tour being Winchester and White Horse. Much morris was shown in various Hampshire villages, followed by a massed display and feast in Winchester.

In early August many members of the Side were holidaying together in Arran. By coaching a friend in Morris and some youngsters in sword dancing, the whole party were able to carry out a morris, sword and country dancing tour of the island. This turned out to be a tremendous success. The police gave active assistance; over £30 was collected and a donation made to the Brodick Castle restoration fund.

28th August. We morris'd at the Rose and Crown, Thorpe and then went on to a country dance held by the patients of Holloway Hospital Egham.

5th September. This was the Colchester Ring meeting. Our local guide was our own George Lawrence. We morris'd at Dedham, Manningtree, Dovercourt (twice) and Colchester. The meeting was as enjoyable as ever. Dancing at places on the way home, we were joined now and again by members of other clubs following the same route.

8th November. We danced some morris as the contribution of the Kingston EFDSS District at the National Gathering at Cecil Sharp House.

Early in December Gordon Smith and his wife represented the Side at the Westminster Unicorn dance.

Boxing Day 1958. We carried out the traditional Claygate five pubs tour. Seventeen men turned out and for most of the time we had two teams dancing. The bag amounted to £8 and gave half to the EFDSS and half to Claygate Village Hall Fund.

At this time the members of the Side are: Christopher Penton, John Glaister, Philip Sylvester, Ron Duncombe, Jim Brooks, (now known as Kersey - after we had visited his ancestral home in Suffolk) Norman Keam, Bill Tofts, Peter Dashwood, Denis Salt, Jim Perry, Cyril Smith, Christopher Ridley, Jim Barclay, Billy Graham, Gordon Smith (Gordon brings a most valuable fiddle playing to the Side's musical strength). Siward Glaister (John's brother) attends practice fairly regularly and will join the Side in due course. Eric Foxley joins us during vacation from Nottingham University, as also does Michael Morton when down from New College, Oxford. Ted Perry remains a member of the Side but rarely dances on account of a back injury which we hope will clear up.

1958 has been a notable year in the Side's history. The highlights were the Mayor's Reception; the performance before the big crowd at Felixstowe; and the demonstration given for the Royal Ballet School.

#### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MED.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at Newlands, Claygate, on Friday 28th November 1958.**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read, agreed and signed.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Denis Salt and Bill Tofts.
3. Invitations to the Westminster Men's dance and to the Winchester Men's Ale were noted. The latest Ring circular was considered.
4. Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks to Ron Duncombe for its preparation. In hand £3-10s.
5. The log, written up to date, was regarded as the annual report and taken as read.
6. Christopher Penton was re-elected squire. In appreciation of a real but hitherto unacknowledged position, John Glaister was elected Deputy Squire and Squire-elect. Cyril Smith and Ron Duncombe were re-elected bagman and assistant bagman.
7. It was decided to develop the singing chorus idea and, also, a mummers play.
8. All men present favoured aiming at a tour in Sweden in August 1960.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

(signed) Christopher Penton. 20-11-59.

## **1959 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

In 1959 practices continued every Friday evening at Newlands, Claygate.

Early 1959 the first morris demonstration of the year was at Fortescue House, a boys school in Twickenham where John Glaister teaches the boys morris and sword.

Saturday 21st February. Ladies Pleasure where our wives and sweethearts were our guests.

Monday 16th March. The CCPR held a big, well-attended display at Coronation Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames. We morris'd most successfully.

Saturday 7th March. Our Ale at the British Legion Hall, Claygate. We had guests from Farnborough and East Surrey. Jim Phillips, squire of the Ring, was unable to attend owing to a change (by us) of the date.

11th April. We sent a strong party to the C.S.H. course on the Headington tradition.

Thursday 7th May. We attended a dance for the patients at Holloway Hospital where Denis Salt has a class. We showed the morris.

May Day 1959. Yet again we took a part in the May Day celebrations at Portchester Castle. Some of our men are officers of the organisation responsible for the affair. We included in our programme a fairly elaborate mummings play and sword dance. We stopped to dance at one or two places out and back but, because of difficulties with police and local authorities in Hampshire, less successfully than in earlier years.

9th May. We had a strong side at the always enjoyable Westminster Day. We stayed to the feast and the singing.

Whit Monday 18th May. We had a very successful tour starting with morris at Hatchford school and dancing at Martyrs Green, Bookham and Newlands Corner. We took part in Bramley Fair and, after tea, danced at Alford, Dunsfold, Chiddingfold and again at Alford.

Sunday 24th May. We went to Braziers Park near Reading to dance and morris and "mum" at a course run by John Glaister and Martin Jolley (East Surrey).

Saturday 23rd May. We danced and morris'd at Guildford with the West Surrey EFDSS at Millmead. We made two pub calls afterwards finishing at the Anchor, Wisley. During the same weekend, the Squire and Jim Barclay represented us at Thaxted.

Saturday 6th June. We carried out a series of engagements at Worcester Park, Banstead and Molesey.

Saturday 13th June. Having shown the morris at a Scout fete at Walton-on-Thames, we morris'd and, with help from EFDSS district dancers, led community dancing at

the very big Kingston Hospital fete. We finished the evening at Shepperton - always a successful "pitch".

Weekend 19th - 21st June. Suffolk tour. As previously, George Lawrence arranged it and brought with him members of his newly-formed East Suffolk Men. We danced at Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Aldeburgh and, most successfully, Southwold. Saxmundham was less appreciative. The evening demonstration at Felixstowe was very disappointing - a bitterly cold wind off the sea blowing away both our music and the crowd. We attended Holy Communion at Blakenham, on Sunday. We lunched and danced at Waldringfield. During a dance, we became aware that Mr Kennedy, Director of the English Folk Dance And Song Society, together with his wife and son, Peter, and their family. Later Hamish Fraser, Beaux of London City, appeared. Peter was good enough to play for us for a while and, in Brighton Camp, we sent up the Director. Returning we stopped in St Albans and danced in a beautiful setting near the Cathedral and later at the Fighting Cocks. We feel sure the local Men will forgive this short, unplanned trespass.

Wednesday 24th June. We morris'd strenuously outside and, afterwards joined a country dance party, inside a pub at Ashford, Middlesex.

16th July. We gave a short demonstration at a Young Wives party at Pyrford.

18th July. We showed the morris at the EFDSS District Festival held in Canbury Gardens, Kingston.

23rd July. We gave a short demonstration at a barbecue at Shepperton. Miss Meikle, EFDSS organiser for this area, arranged dancing in a public park for Fulham Corporation. We and Dancers from the District demonstrated and led the dancing.

Early in August. A number of our men were with a camping party at Porlock in Somerset. With help from friends a side was formed and a number of successful demonstrations were given in the neighbourhood.

Early in September. Our club was well represented at Headington Ring meeting. We toured with men from East Suffolk and Abingdon. One of our tour musicians was Father Loveless. We enjoyed the massed dancing in the park. We were involved in the rather troublesome representatives meeting - our bagman being the unsuccessful candidate for the office of Ring bagman and the disturbing "standards of dancing" debate being initiated. The service at Headington church was packed. On our way home we rested, swam, had tea on the terrace and danced at Wallingford. We stopped again at Moulsoford. Jim Barclay was a little poorly all afternoon: part of his education.

Saturday 12th September. Four of us attended dancing on Ealing Green. A local EFDSS member produced a fine collection of morris records - with the natural result.

Weekend 25th - 27th September. The very enjoyable Ludlow Ring meeting. It followed traditional lines and we enjoyed it all, especially the lovely town. Bill Tofts fell and sprained his ankle very badly indeed, needing hospital treatment. (Not till Boxing Day was he really fully recovered). We toured with the Gloucester Men.

Travelling home we visited Pershore Abbey, Broadway and stopped to dance near Pangbourne. Tyre troubles cropped up near home but were coped with.

Saturday 3rd October. We morris'd both inside and outside Staines Town Hall as an item of the three day festival in the town.

Saturday 17th October. We morris'd and sang at another very interesting festival, the Camberley Elizabethan festival.

Late in October. The Squire attended the leaders' course in Birmingham and was the guest of the Jockey Men. He reported fully at the AGM.

18th November. We gave a demonstration at a party at Dalston.

Wednesday 25th November. We gave a fairly long demonstration at a Rotary International Club in Leatherhead.

Late in December. We had our usual party with our ladies attending.

Boxing Day 1959. Sixteen men turned out for the tour of Claygate pubs. Non-regulars were Laurie Mosley of Oxford University; Mike Morton, late of Oxford University and now teaching at Eastbourne; Nick Wardle, late of the Malvern Swordsmen and now living in Wimbledon; and, momentarily, Gordon Ralph who plans to return to the club. At the Hare and Hounds, Christopher Penton danced himself out as Squire and in as Deputy. John Glaister danced himself in as Squire. Heavy rain fell 10 minutes too early but otherwise the tour was a success, the bag being the biggest so far, £12-4-8, which was divided as usual between the EFDSS and a local charity.

Club membership remains unchanged: Siward Glaister now being a full member. Jim Brooks holds extra practices at his home and Denis Salt has several young men under instruction. The year was less high-lighted but the club remains steadily and vigorously active.

#### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

##### **Minutes of the Annual General meeting held at Newlands, Claygate on Friday 20th November 1959.**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read, agreed and signed.
2. Arising from the minutes, the Squire reported that probably the Swedish tour could not be made.
3. Under correspondence, several letters of thanks to the Club were read. After consideration of the Ring circular, the Club's attitude in the "panel of assessors" debate was decided on and, also, it was decided to offer to organise in 1961 either a Ring meeting based on Guildford or a day meeting based on Kingston.
4. Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks to Ron Duncombe for its preparation. In hand £40.
5. The Log. Written up to date, was regarded as the annual report and taken as read.
6. The Squire's report on the Birmingham instructional meeting included references to: presentation of morris; fooling; bibliography; a film of the Ancient Men; and dancing standards.

7. John Glaister was elected Squire. Christopher Penton was elected Deputy Squire and was warmly thanked for his help as Squire of the Club. Cyril Smith and Ron Duncombe were re-elected bagman and assistant bagman.

8. Siward Glaister was elected to full membership of the Club. The position of other apprentices was discussed. Denis Salt is training three young men who are invited to attend Club practices at any time and to offer themselves for full membership in due course. Jim Brooks was holding extra practices at his home. It was decided to support strongly these efforts and members were urged to join both Denis and Jim to make it possible to have team practice. The Club welcomes the attendance of any recruits and decided to revive an earlier arrangement - an October intake.

8. A Norwegian tour was being negotiated and would take precedence over any other arrangement made for 1960. It was decided to attend Ring meetings at C.S.House, Thaxted, Birmingham, and Reigate. A Somerset tour was decided on tentatively and a Scottish one was mooted. Other fixtures were noted. Invitations to the Winchester and Woodside Ales were acknowledged gratefully.

9. Under A.O.B., a suggestion for joint tours with other clubs was approved and also a suggestion to arrange a film and snapshot evening.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

(Signed) John Glaister.

## **1960 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

During 1960 practices continued weekly at Newlands College, Claygate.

Early January. Squire and Bagman attended the Ring Representatives meeting at Cecil Sharp House.

30th January. We morris'd at an Addlestone church party. We returned to join a Claygate EFDSS party and showed the morris.

29th February. We attended a country dance party at Reedhams School, Croydon. We, and the boys there, morris'd.

12th March. We enjoyed and greatly benefitted from attendance at the instructional meeting at C.S.House.

15th March. We morris'd at a Methodist church party at Walton-on-Thames and finished the evening at the John of Gaunt. The figure giving his name to this pub has strong morris connections.

18th March. Morris'd at Fortescue House Boys School where John Glaister has a class.

2nd April. We attended in considerable strength the Headington Ceilidh at Jim Phillips' invitation. We toured up very successfully, stopping, among other places, at the West Wycombe chalk caves.

22nd April. We showed the morris at a function at the Friends Meeting House, Kingston, touring afterwards, finishing at the Angel, Thames Ditton.

23rd April. We had our ale at the Foley, Claygate. Members of East Surrey and North Downsmen were our guests.

14th May. Westminster Day - very enjoyable.

20th May. We made the long trip to Saffron Waldren to show the morris.

21st May. Morris at Send and Walton.

28th May. Morris at a big school fete at Esher, went on to a country dance party at Eatling where we were joined by the North Downsmen. We finished with a couple of stops in Twickenham.

Whit Monday 6th June. This tour was the most successful so far. It was strenuous. We danced at Ockham, Bookham, Newlands Corner, Shere, Newlands Corner, Wisley, Weybridge and Shepperton!

Weekend 10 - 12 June. Thaxted - enjoyable as ever. Returning we were joined by men of Greensleeves and East Surrey and danced at Epping. The Director, EFDSS, and Mrs Kennedy were, by chance, in the crowd and we were able to hand over the

(sizeable) bag to the Society at once. Some of the men, unable to go to Thaxted, morris'd at a party at Ashford, Middx.

18th June. We attended and showed the morris at the West Surrey EFDSS Festival in the magnificent garden of Losely Hall near Guildford. Later we went, as so often, to the Anchor, Wisley.

Weekend 24 -26th June. A Somerset tour: a complete success. Some Bathampton men welcomed us at Bath. On Saturday we danced at West Harptree, Wells, Burnham, Weston-super-Mare (several times: members of the Wessex men joining us) Bristol and Bath. Sunday, a glorious day, we danced at Chipping Sodbury, Malmesbury, Fairford, Lechlade (meeting Peter Swan) and having a parting drink at Wantage.

2nd July. We fell from grace. Only five men turned up at a Rotary fete at Leatherhead. They danced jigs! Later the same afternoon a full side danced at the Kingston District EFDSS festival at Kingston - as also did the North Downsmen.

9th July. We morris'd briefly in bad weather at the village fete at Hersham. A later engagement at Claygate was rained off. During this weekend a rather shorthanded team went to the Ludlow Summer Festival. They toured with the Stafford men and much enjoyed the trip including one or two lucrative stops coming home.

16th July. We danced first at a big fete in Worcester Park. We went on to join the East Surrey men at the East Surrey EFDSS festival at Croydon and returned to spend the rest of the evening at the Plough, Worcester Park.

23rd July. Morris'd at St George's College, Walton-on-Thames.

Early August. Jim Perry accompanied, in the flesh and on his accordion, the North Downsmen on their August Bank Holiday tour.

3rd September. We morris'd at Oxshott fete and at an old people's party at the Friends' Meeting House, Kingston, finishing once more at the Plough, Worcester Park.

Weekend 9 - 11th September. The very enjoyable and successful Reigate Ring Meeting. Our morning tour took us to the Westerham district and the evening one to Betchworth. On the Sunday, being one of about eight clubs invited, we danced the morris for a big gathering of Surrey notables in the beautiful grounds of Lyne House, Capel, the Broadwood home. The Squire of the Ring and Captain Broadwood were our hosts, the High Sherriff made a speech, Shuldham Shaw sang and Douglas Kennedy spoke very interestingly about the morris.

24th September. We joined a fete run for St Paul's school, Addlestone.

7th October. A.G.M. and practice.

15th October. Most of the men attended a country dance party at Hampton Wick. We did not morris. Nibs Matthews, Squire of the Ring, was caller.

16th November. We morris'd for our Leatherhead Rotary friends and erased the memory of our July lapse.

30th November. We showed the morris and led the country dancing at a Ladies Training College, Tooting.

3rd December. We morris'd at an old people's party at New Haw and went on to dance (all sorts) at West Byfleet Social Club.

There being two Boxing Days this year, we had two tours. The first, as usual, round the Claygate pubs. Very good. The second, on the Tuesday, at New Haw, Ottershaw and Shearwater. Equally successful. We finished this second tour at the Railway Orphanage, Woking.

John Glaister continues Squire, Christopher Penton, Deputy, Cyril Smith and Ron Duncombe, bagman and assistant holding the money. Christopher Ridley has, unfortunately, left on going to work in Cornwall. We only see Siward Glaister during vacation - he being at Bangor University. Hugh Gibson is now a full member and we are happy to have Ray Wilson, formerly of Bathampton Men, to join us. Jim Brooks continues to give extra practice at his house to several youngsters. The year has been a busy one. The club continues as strong as ever.

14th December. We morris'd and danced at a country dance party at Ashford, Mx, where Jim Perry takes an evening institute class.

### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Newlands, Claygate on Friday 7th October 1960.**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read, agreed and signed.
2. Under correspondence, letters of thanks from many organisations were read. The meeting approved the refusal to accept payment for the morris at Leatherhead on 2nd July. The latest Ring circular was discussed, several points were noted and it was agreed to offer Ewart Russell of Colchester our nomination for the office of Ring bagman.
3. The club's finances were discussed. It was resolved to make payments to certain men in respect of transport during last summer. It was agreed to receive the full statement of accounts at a later meeting.
4. The Log to be written up to date was regarded as the Bagman's report and taken as read.
5. The Squire's report took the form of stating his wishes on certain matters in the light of our experience. Hitherto, although fairly strong in music and dancers, it would be better if the club were even stronger: occasionally our programmes are unduly restricted because of this comparative lack. The Squire urged care in striking the balance between technically good dancing and our own fun. The matter of amplified music was raised: approval of it was very qualified. Arising therefrom it was decided in future to try to arrange to dance in close contact with spectators: not in the middle of a big arena.

6. Peter Dashwood and Gordon Smith gave full and enjoyable reports of their attendance at the Whitley Bay Ring meeting. This was an important Ring occasion and the club was glad to be represented at it. It was resolved to pay Gordon's rail fare.

7. John Glaister was re-elected Squire; Christopher Penton Deputy Squire; Cyril Smith Bagman; and Ron Duncombe Assistant Bagman. John remarked how much he looked to Christopher for guidance and support. The meeting, yet again, wished to record the gratitude felt to Christopher for the help he had given the Club.

8. Hugh Gibson was elected to full membership. Ray Wilson was accepted into full membership, he having been a member of Bathampton Morris Men and now living at New Haw.

9. Planning future activities was left for a special meeting.

10. Under A.O.B. it was resolved to make every third Friday a big practice, if necessary at the Foley, Claygate. Meanwhile weekly practices will continue at Claygate, Chertsey and Thames Ditton. Philip Sylvester made a suggestion that for club and Ring meetings the usually costly brochure should take a standard form with a cheaply printed insert for the various occasions. This was thought to be so valuable a suggestion that it was resolved to bring it before the representatives meeting of the Ring.

The meeting adjourned at 10.10pm.

At the adjourned A.G.M. held at the Foley Hall, Claygate, later in October, a financial statement was made. In hand £43. Outline plans for 1961 were made.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

## **1961 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

7th January. Members of the club and friends took part in a country dance and morris demonstration at the Outdoor Exhibition, Olympia, London.

14th January. Squire and Bagman attended the representatives meeting of the Ring at C.S.House.

10th March. Ladies Night at Christopher Penton's house.

19th March. Meeting at Bagman's home to consider a plan to undertake a Scottish tour this year.

25th March. John Glaister's daughter, Gill [Jill], was married to Peter Jones of East Surrey Morris Men. Members of both clubs attended the ceremony and danced the appropriate dances as well as others.

16th April. During a dance course at High Cannons, morris men of several clubs met for morris at the Mops and Brooms pub, Barnet.

22nd April. We attended in good numbers the instructional meeting at C.S.House and enjoyed it.

29th April. We enjoyed the successful tour arranged by Peter and Hugh - visiting Chobham, Farnham, Tilford and Godalming.

6th May. We took part yet again in the Portchester May Queen ceremonies. We performed the mummings play as well as the morris. Unhappily the weather was bad and the proceedings were cut short.

13th May. Westminster Day - successful and enjoyable as always.

20th May. We chose to spend a practice evening at the Black Swan, Martyrs Green. Good.

22nd May. The club was honoured by an invitation from the Headington Quarry Morris Men to join them in their traditional Whit Monday tour. We had a most successful tour up, dancing at Shepperton, Bells of Ouzely, Cookham and Wallingford. We were made so welcome at Headington that we morris'd confidently. Bill Kimber gave his approval of Jim Barclay's 'Baccy Pipes' jig. Headington and Thames Valley sing - so we sang.

3rd June. Joined by two North Downsmen we morrised all afternoon in the precincts of Kingston Parish church, collecting for its fund for rehanging the bells. In 1509 the churchwardens gave our ancestors bells for their pads. We made some repayment in 1961. Afterwards Christopher Penton had us to tea in his pleasant garden and then we toured Weybridge and Wisley pubs.

11th June. Again in Christopher's garden morrissing for his foreign guests. Gordon Smith took Jim Barclay to the Thaxted Ring meeting.

11th June. After attending West Surrey EFDSS festival at Losely Hall we went onto morris at the Bells, Thursley, and afterwards to a very lavish private party at Milhangar, Thursley.

24th June. We danced at fetes at Bookham, Epsom and Chilworth. We let ourselves down on this occasion by bad time keeping but our hosts were kind.

30th June. Hugh arranged some morris at a club for elderly people at Chertsey in which he is interested.

1st July. On an extremely hot afternoon we danced, several times; at a big show at the Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton. Afterwards we dashed off to Winkworth and spent the evening - swimming.

9th July. A meeting at New Haw to finalise Scottish plans.

14th July. Birmingham Ring meeting. We enjoyed our tour with Green Man Morris, visiting Erdington, Lichfield and Tamworth, the civic reception and tea and the massed dancing. We shared the disappointment when heavy rain spoiled the Sunday dancing.

28th July. A special practice for our Edinburgh programme.

29th July. Many of us attended Christopher Ridley's wedding to Janet, a country dancer, and danced some morris.

Week beginning 5th August. Through the good offices of Peter Dashwood we had been engaged to take part in one of the weekly entertainments given in Princes Gardens, Edinburgh. Also through Peter we were warmly welcomed and generously entertained and accommodated by members of the Edinburgh Scottish dance group. Our party comprised nine men and nine ladies. Having assembled and been fed by our Edinburgh friends we gave a series of ten minute performances of the morris in the arena in Princes Gardens. A stage and bandstand backs the arena. Hugh, fooling, rose splendidly to the occasion. He appeared to fill and make us fill the big space. He also roused the very big crowd and brought them into touch with us, dashing among them occasionally. Stan Kilby, a novice, supported him finely with the Horse. We were on more familiar ground with music and dancing. This was perhaps the biggest effort the club has made. It was successful and we had no scruples in accepting our £10 fee. We returned to our Edinburgh friends and their hospitality.

Next day we drove to Glencoe, arriving in good time and camping near the Clachaig. Next morning we moved to a new camp site a little-down stream which is, surely, the most beautiful in Scotland. During the evening we morris'd very successfully at Glencoe and Ballachulish and finally were invited to the Youth Hostel in Glencoe. During the night the rain started and fell more or less continuously till Friday morning. It was the wettest period for decades. On Tuesday we visited Glen Finnan in sub aqueous conditions (no dancing). That night the strath rose three feet and watch had to be kept - but the campsite remained above water. On Wednesday we joined the Holiday Fellowship party in their guest house, Alltshallach, for dancing and morris - a very welcome respite from the weather. On Thursday, the weather easing a little, we

went to Oban and morrised. Returning we were able to have a little morris in Glencoe. On Friday the party dispersed, some going dancing to St Andrews, some touring and some returning to the Edinburgh fleshpots. We had car trouble and the appalling weather prevented us dancing as much as we had planned. Therefore this holiday we have to regard as only a qualified success.

2nd September. We morris'd at fetes at Teddington, New Haw and Weybridge. Here we had a pipe band play reels at our request. The tempo was horrible but we danced to it.

8th September. Another Martyrs Green practice, rather liquid.

9th September. Gordon Smith attended the Bedford Ring meeting, attending the representatives gathering and playing for the Ipswich men (including our George Lawrence) and some Headington men. Hugh Gibson also went up for the day.

16th September. We morrised at Finart House, an approved School, before going on to a dance at Shepperton.

30th September. As part of civic celebrations we morrised briefly at Manor Park, New Malden. We then went on a tour Guildford/Shalford/Guildford.

21st October. We danced at a church barbecue at Wimbledon and went on to the Telegraph pub, Wimbledon Common.

30th October. Several of us were invited to Gordon's home to see his fine coloured transparencies, notably of the Scottish tour.

10th November. We were represented by John Glaister, Gordon Smith and Cyril Smith with ladies at the Morris Ale at C. S. House.

19th November. We showed the morris and led some country dancing at an international gathering at Kingston Y.M.C.A.

8th December. Annual general meeting.

19th December. Morris and country dancing at the Ministry of Labour Rehabilitation centre at Egham where Jim Perry runs a class.

26th December Boxing Day. Boxing Day saw us out again as usual in good strength (16 men) at Claygate. The weather, though bright, was bitterly cold and the bag suffered accordingly.

1961 was a successful year. The club is as strong as ever. Practices at Newlands, Claygate, were not so regular or so well attended as in earlier year but, on the other hand, there have been almost uninterrupted Wednesday evening practices at Jim Brooks' home where three or four young men have had most valuable instruction. Towards the end of the year there have been Sunday morning practices at Christopher Penton's home.

We have four young men practising regularly: Stan Kilby (with us in Scotland), Mervyn Stanley, Richard Warner and Brian Green -the last two being admitted full members in December.

John Glaister, who teaches in Barnet, has been the guest of the Wood side men on a number of occasions.

The programme for 1962 is already pretty full!

### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 15 Torrington Rd., Claygate on Friday 8th December 1961.**

Present: J Glaister, C Penton, N Keam, J Brooks, P Sylvester, W Tofts, J Perry, G Smith, J Barclay, H Gibson, R Wilson, R Duncombe.

Apologies were received from P Dashwood (in Newcastle) and C Smith (ill).

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read, agreed and signed.
2. Matters arising - Big practices at the Foley had seldom been passable and the Foley is now no longer available. Philip's suggestion about the brochure had been put to the representatives' meeting but not acted on.
3. Correspondence - consisted mainly of letters of thanks from nearly everyone we danced for and for donations sent to the Society and the Order of Wood craft Chivalry. Thanks were received from Janet and Christopher Ridley for the wedding gift. Les Nichols acknowledged our nomination of him for election as Squire of the Ring.
4. Financial Report - Bagman's illness prevented liaison with the Assistant and so Ron could not present a final statement. Balance in hand and at bank is about £19.
5. The Log, written up to date, is regarded as the Bagman's report and taken as read.
6. Squire's Report - was a talk on the Club's condition and his views on the performance and presentation of the Morris.
7. Other reports - Gordon's report on the Bedford Ring meeting was given and accepted.  
It was reported that hopes of a London Ring meeting in 1963 were dim.
8. Election of Officers - John Glaister was unanimously re-elected Squire. Jim Brooks was elected Deputy Squire and Squire- elect. C Smith and R Duncombe continue as Bagman and Assistant (the latter holding the cash).
9. Mark Berry was received into membership, he having been a member of Stafford Morris Men. Peter Jones, John's son-in-law, holds dual membership of Thames Valley and East Surrey. Richard Warner and Brian Green, apprentices, were made full members and will be kitted up.
10. Any other business - John's suggestion that rapper swords be purchased was accepted.
11. Planning - An outline of plans for 1962 was considered and a suggested list of engagements was read over and agreed to.

The meeting closed at 11pm.

(Signed) John Glaister.

## **1962 Log Thames Valley Morris Men.**

Practices continued throughout the year at Newlands, Claygate, on most Fridays: at Jim Brooks' home on many Wednesdays and, during the early part of the year and at the end of the year on Sunday mornings at Christopher Penton's home. For the last we were joined by ladies to practice American square dancing and running set for our Claverton Manor show in June next.

13th January. Squire and Bagman attended the reps. meeting at C.S.House. Our nominee, Les Nichols, was not elected Squire of the Ring but we are all ready to give support to Lionel Bacon of Winchester Morris Men who was.

3rd February. We were guests at the Guildford Morris Men's Ale.

9th February. We morrised while guests at a village Social at Claygate.

3rd March. We helped with dancing and .morrised at a party at the Ladies College, Isleworth.

10th March. As usual we were represented at the C.S.House instructional meeting.

12th April. We morrised at a Women's Institute meeting at Send.

Hocktide 1st May. There is a recorded tradition of morris dancing in connection with Kingston Parish Church and we revived this, dancing all evening in the precincts on precisely the correct day.

5th May. We joined the "small" Ring meeting based on Chipperfield. While touring the Chalfonts and elsewhere we had fun with the stocks at Beaconsfield. Rain somewhat marred the programme but not our enjoyment of the meeting.

12th May. This Surrey tour, arranged by Christopher and Jim Barclay, took us round familiar country and, while we enjoyed dancing, the crowds were very small because of very cold .weather.

26th May. We joined the very well attended meeting at Coventry to help celebrate the Cathedral's dedication. We danced at Rugby and Leamington and then joined the rest in the City. We planned to tour home and miss the feast. In the event we lingered in the shopping precinct and gave a very successful show of our own, leaving us time to stop only at Kenilworth and Gaydon on the homeward journey.

2nd June. We "processed" and morrised at a church show in Ashford, morrised at an old people's home in Weybridge and went on afterwards to the EFDSS Festival in St Mary's College, Twickenham.

11th June. Our Whit Monday tour started at Martyrs Green. We went on to Newlands Corner, Shere, Newlands Corner again and then to a show at Bramley. Then we joined a big show at Brook and returned home to the Anchor, Wisley.

16<sup>th</sup> June. This year we went to Thaxted and enjoyed fully the traditional routine.

22nd June. The Somerset tour this year was somewhat different. We assembled at Bath on Friday but had no chance to dance. We spent Saturday morning rehearsing for the show at the American Museum, Claverton Manor in the afternoon. This we duly did, three times. It is a wonderful establishment. Later we were guests at a very opulent girls' school at Box. Four Bathampton Morris Men joined us for a very good morris show in the lovely garden. Then we fed, lavishly. With one or two (elderly) exceptions the men disappeared thereafter - to twist and jive and madison. At length we hauled off to a pub on the Bath road. Next day we assembled for lunch at Avebury and morrised. Then the party split, some visiting the White Horse at Uffington; others going to Wallingford. There was enough energy and numbers and music to finish with morris at Moulsoford.

1st July. After some morris at the Send camp we spent the evening at the Feathers, Laleham.

7th July. We joined East Surrey on their Surrey tour, dancing at Betchworth, Beare Green and Newdigate. We broke off for engagements of our own at Leatherhead and Milford, rejoining East Surrey at Abinger and going on to Ockley, Both sides enjoyed' singing at the end of the day. Thames Valley and East Surrey hardly feel like two clubs.

21st July. Our very successful Thames Valley tour, arranged by Gordon and Jim Brooks - Kew, Richmond, Twickenham, Hampton Wick, Hampton Court Bridge, Molesey Lock, Weston Green, Thames Ditton and Laleham.

Week 18th -23rd August. Peter Dashwood and Cyril Smith were members of an EFDSS course at Carmarthen and, since there was morris and rapper and several references to our Club, this is mentioned here.

1st September. We went to the Black Swan, Martyrs Green, for practice but, in fact, danced publicly including rapper for the first time.

15th September. We danced morris and rapper at a big school-fete at Addlestone. Several members and friends teach here. We went on to the Goat, Halliford and finally to Gordon's house to see his splendid collection of picture slides of all our activities.

16th September. Bill assembled a team for morris at a sports meeting at Sutton.

21st September. Kingston District EFDSS Autumn Fair. We ran a stall and helped toward the success of this event.

22nd September. Siward's and Peter Jones' tour. (One gathers that every pub in rural Surrey was visited in the course of the reccy). After morrissing at the Rectory fete, Byfleet, we went to the Queens Head where the licensee invited us to take up the bar carpets for rapper and morris. Then on to Chertsey; to the Otter, Ottershaw and finally to the fine, flood-lit gardens of the Saddlers Arms, Sendmarsh.

28th September. Unusually early A.G.M.

29th September. New Forest tour arranged by Christopher Penton and Peter Dashwood. We assembled at the Old Well cafe at Cadnum, went on to the John Barleycorn (where we made arrangements with the B.B.C. for an evening show) then to Christopher's ancestral home at Lyndhurst, lunching afterwards at Swan Green. We went sight seeing in the afternoon, meeting again at Stoney Cross and the Rufus Stone. On then, to the Good Servant, Minster, and back to the John Barleycorn where heavy rain prevented us from being photographed for television.

6th October - St Albans' Day. We morrised at the Ancient Briton, Harpenden, Adeyfield and Hemel Hempsted with the St Albans club, of which Christopher used to be a member. We lost Laurie Mosley to his old club, Oxford Ancient Men. After tea all clubs danced in the Cathedral Sumpter Yard. At the feast we sadly said goodbye to Donald Cassels. We finished as usual at the Fighting Cocks, St Albans.

12th October - We danced and morrised at Jim Perry's class at Ashford, Mx.

15th October - We were guests at the Harvest Supper at Byfleet. We danced for our supper.

20th October - The bagman went to watch the Sheffield Men in Trafalgar Square. All London morris men should have been there.

14th December - We made our practice night into a party at the Foley Arms, Claygate, and were glad to have our ladies with us.

26th December - The Boxing Day tour at Claygate followed the now traditional lines. Although the weather was very cold it was a success. We had several specially interested visitors and a good deal of Press. John danced himself out and Jim Brooks danced (and sang) himself in, as Squire. Eric Foxley and family turned up in the crowd and Eric played for us. Philip Sylvester, now a country member of the team, came into Brighton Camp in his overcoat. There were 15 men in the side.

Throughout the year we have become keen on rapper sword dancing and now have it firmly in the repertory.

Highlights in 1962 have not been vivid but the club is as strong as ever. If the men don't meet to dance pretty frequently they complain of morris-starvation.

### **THAMES VALLBY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Newlands, Claygate, on Friday 28th September, 1962.**

Present: J Glaister, C Penton, N Keam, R Duncombe, P Dashwood, J Barclay, H Gibson, J Perry, W Tofts, J Brooks, G Smith, C Smith, M Berry, L Mosley. The remainder of the Club are: R Tevor-Wilson, P Jones, S Glaister, B Green, R Warner, and M Stanley, who sent apologies for absence.

1. Minutes of the previous AGM read, agreed and signed.

2. Correspondence - a number of 'thank you' letters; Dr Capstick, formerly of Romford Men, thanking us for invitation to join; Ring circulars, noting particularly insurance cover and that the London Ring meeting 1963 is firmly fixed; notice of instruction meeting at C.S.House.
3. Financial statement - Ron Duncombe presented a detailed report. Cash in hand £50 plus £5 credit in respect of London Ring meeting. The report was accepted with thanks for its preparation. It was resolved to donate £5 to Claygate Village Hall Fund because the small bag last Boxing Day prevented us from contributing at that time.
4. The Log to be written up to date was regarded as the Bagman's Report and taken as read.
5. Election of Officers - Jim Brooks was unanimously elected Squire. Christopher and John to act as Deputy Squire as occasion arose. C Smith and R Duncombe continue as Bagman and Assistant.
6. Elections to membership - L Mosley was given full membership, he having been a member of Oxford University Men. Mervyn Stanley was made a full member.
7. Planning - preliminary planning was made for the future: Ladies Pleasure late November; full planning meeting in first week in January; an Ale in February; take a full part in London Ring meeting 1963. The possibility of a tour abroad possibly to Jugoslavia was discussed.
8. A.O.B. - Discussed giving greater attention to fooling and money collections.

The meeting closed 10.20pm.

(Signed) T.J.Kersey Brooks.

## **1963 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

2nd January. Jim Brooks and, Jim Perry attended the farewell feast at St Albans to Donald Cassels. We regret we shall not be seeing Donald so often, his links with our Club and his long friendship with Christopher have been close.

12th January. Jim Brooks and bagman attended the representatives meeting at Cecil Sharp House.

9th February. The Kingston EFDSS District held a one-day course at King Athelstan school, Kingston. Several members of the club attended to play, sing, to morris and to dance rapper.

18th February. The combined Districts, Kingston and East Surrey EFDSS, had an at-home evening at C.S. House. Both morris clubs associated, with the Districts danced the morris.

20th February. On this day Roy Dommett, who has been doing a great deal of research into morris sources other than Sharp's, attended a practice to use this club as a guinea pig. At this stage he showed us the revived Oddington and Wheatley. This was the first of many visits from Roy to continue this study.

1st March. Pyrford is the centre of much of our activities - music, singing, country dancing as well as morris. This day was a birthday celebration by the Pyrford group. We danced the morris as part of an extremely enjoyable occasion.

16th March. Instruction meeting at C.S. House. Roy Dommett was an instructor at this meeting and was showing Oddington and Wheatley. We were very glad to demonstrate. Russell Wortley had us polish Bledington and Fred Hamer the Brackley. The Ale in the evening was fun.

27th March. Members of the club helped Brian Heaton run a dance for the Holiday Fellowship at Croydon and were allowed to add morris and rapper to the programme.

15th - 20th April. The bagman attended the Hellecom, Holland, course and, as he studied morris and rapper with Dutch friends as well as two St Albans men, this can be mentioned here. Hurrying back, he arrived late on . . .

20th April. Our own Ale. This was held in Claygate Church Hall and our guests were: Lionel Bacon, squire of the Ring; other Winchester men; Ewart Russell, bagman of the Ring; other Colchester men; Roy Dommett; John Perry of Rumford; Pat Patterson and Philip ? of Oxford City; Wally Randall, squire, and other East Surrey men; George Lawrence, formerly ours and now of Ipswich; three Guildford men and Tony Pegram of the Heston club. It is extremely gratifying to have so many friends attend from considerable distances. We enjoyed their company and hope they enjoyed the occasion.

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Hock Tide at Kingston Parish Church. This is now firmly established as our tradition and was successful. We went on afterwards to dance and morris at a church party at Weston Green, Esher.

27<sup>th</sup> April. South East Area Festival, EFDSS, at C.S.House. We showed the Oddington and enjoyed the evening.

3<sup>rd</sup> May. Here again the bagman attended a country dance course at Crowlink, Sussex. It fell to him to instruct in rapper. Showing this at the end of the course, the lock disintegrated showering swords on the heads of the hapless (lady) dancers. This hilarious moment was filmed! Bagman hurried back to join . . .

11<sup>th</sup> May. Jim Barclay's tour. British Volunteer; Weybridge; Queens Head, Byfleet; Anchor, Wisley (lunch); a May Queen fete at Send; a school of the Ockenden Venture at Haslemere; and later to finish the evening at Jolly Farmer, Puttenham. Brian Heaton and others joined us here.

3<sup>rd</sup> June. This year we had shortened our Whit Monday tour to accept an invitation of Headington Quarry Men to join them in the evening. This was a little less than completely successful. In the forenoon we danced, as in earlier years, at Martyrs Green, Newlands Corner and Shere. This went as well as ever. We then attempted to keep an engagement at Brook, a very big fete. We were put in the programme late and it rained. A depleted side rushed up Headington where, I fear, we did ourselves less than justice. To add to the misfortunes, Hugh burst his car's radiator and had to be towed all the way home from Headington!

15<sup>th</sup> June. We morrised at a fete at Glyn House, Ewell, in the afternoon while some of the side accompanied Brian Heaton and some East Surrey Men on a tour in remoter Surrey. We all foregathered, together with some Guildford Men, at Clandon Village Hall for country dancing in the evening. Here we were told of Martin Jolley's unfortunate accident that put him in hospital for some weeks and stopped him from playing his fiddle for many months.

22<sup>nd</sup> June. We danced morris and rapper at the Kingston District EFDSS's festival on Cigarette Island, opposite Hampton Court. We broke off in the middle to morris at a scouts fete at Thames Ditton. Later in the evening we took ourselves off to morris and drink at the Goat, Halliford.

30<sup>th</sup> June. A Sunday. We made up a side, with some difficulty, to dance the morris in the evening at Bentall's Social club, West Molesey.

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July. London Ring meeting. We had taken our share in organising this meeting. Our tours were along the Kings Road, Chelsea and along the Fulham Road. It rained very heavily the whole day. We danced in pubs, under shop awnings, in railway stations, under a gateway in Deans Yard, Westminster, and finally on the Embankment. The other 200 morris men from all over the country did the same. We assembled for the fast at the fine Wandsworth Town Hall. This was excellent. The speeches were enjoyable. Kenneth Constable made a reference to the Oddington which pleased us as we now feel the 'proprietors' of this tradition. We showed it in the morrissing afterwards and feel, so well did it go, that it was an artistic peak in our

career. Next morning, Sunday, we attended with many friends, the lovely service in Westminster Abbey. Thereafter and through lunch time we took part in the morrising in Trafalgar Square. This was a great success and largely assuaged the disappointment of the previous day.

13th July. We morrised at a fete at the Halfway, Walton. This was very pleasant. We went on to the dance at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, where Peter was the caller. We had a little morris and, later, conviviality.

20th July. Reigate Day of Dance. This was a civic authority sponsored affair run by Brian Heaton. Dancers from all over Surrey were there as well as East Surrey, Greensleeves and Thames Valley. Our tour took us to Bletchworth and Leigh and villages nearby. We returned to the general dancing and displays at Reigate and finished at a pub on Reigate Hill where elements of several clubs met and turned it into a morris evening.

31st August. We showed the morris and rapper at a fete in Farnham Castle. This was a very pleasant and busy affair in a very picturesque situation. We remained the whole afternoon and then went on to watch cricket at the Barley Mow, Tilford. After stumps were drawn we showed the morris. Then we went on to the Woolpack, Elsted.

7th September. Guildford town tour. This was also run by Brian Heaton under local authority auspices. We danced and morrised with the Guildford Men and ladies at several sites during the morning and then went to the enormous agricultural show in Stokes Park. We and the Guildford Men and the Farnborough Men gave shows at intervals round the whole show's wide area. Brian called a country dance in the evening in a marquee. Later we all met at the Jolly Farmer, Puttenham. Here, at the end of the evening we danced some rapper and, to inspired playing by Gordon and Brian, we got it going better than ever before.

20th September. We were again responsible for the produce stall at the Kingston District's Autumn Fair at the Ronayne Hall, Hampton Wick.

21st September. Once again we enjoyed the St Albans Day which followed the traditional pattern.

28th September. Siward's tour. We met, danced and lunched at the Queens Head, Byfleet, and then went on to Byfleet Rectory fete. Siward had found several excellent pitches in Guildford. Guildford has hitherto proved a difficult place for the morris but Siward appears to have found the solution. The whole company of us were guests to tea of some local friends. Afterwards we were glad to show the morris to an invalid, helpless from injuries received in the 1914 war. Later we morrised at the Barley Mow, Horsley, and the Black Swan, Martyrs Green.

10th October. We showed the morris and rapper at a well attended meeting of the Foreign Friendship League, Leatherhead. This was another arrangement of Brian's.

12th October. For the second time this year we helped at an H.F. party at Croydon. Peter was the caller and we danced and morrised., A most successful affair.

19th October. Bill Tofts and Jim Barclay represented us at the Whit church Men's Ale. After route finding difficulties they had an excellent evening.

22nd October. Four of us including Roy Dommett and Pat Patterson went to C.S.House to help Bert Weaver with his morris class. He, however, was absent but we were glad to help Bernard Beecher instead.

15th November. Annual General Meeting.

22nd November. With the main purpose of helping Roy Dommett demonstrate Oddington and Wheatley to the northern clubs instructional meeting, we went as a side to Sheffield. Arriving fairly late in the evening we attended the country dance at Sheffield University. This finished at 2.30am. With the exception of Christopher (who appears to have slept on the stage of the University theatre) we all were accommodated by a member of the Sheffield EFDSS group. Members of this household were very kind, letting us sleep all over the house and providing us with meals. Saturday we spent in studying 'our' traditions, rapper and, for the first time for us, the Lancashire morris. It was all very interesting, enjoyable and strenuous. We attended a pretty uproarious ceilidh in the evening, laid on by the Sheffield Men. Some of us travelled home during that night.

11th December. Once again we showed morris and rapper at Jim Perry's class at the Rehabilitation Centre, Egham.

26th December. Boxing Day started off in pouring rain. We rushed around altering posters, directing people to the Village Hall, Clay gate, which was made available to us at a moments notice. At 12.30pm we went outdoors at the Hare and Hounds, despite the continued drizzle. Because of this Gordon ruined a valuable fiddle. The rain did at length stop and we finished the tour at the Swan. The morris, we fear, was a little coarse. The Lichfield hey was chaos - possibly due to moisture inside and out: So this year must be regarded less than successful. This was especially a pity because Les Nichols and a full Greensleeves side had turned out with us. Tony Pegram was playing as well and we had eleven of our own men out. The bag, of course, was small - £6-10s. Christopher Ridley, now a farmer in Cornwall, was with us, with his young family.

The Club's career continues as strongly as ever. The special feature of this year's activities has been the study, with Roy Dommett, of the Oddington, Wheatley and, latterly, Bidford traditions. These sessions have taken place often at Jim Brooks' house on Wednesdays or at Christopher's on Sunday mornings. It is remarkable that on several occasions two Rumford Men have come over on Sundays. On one Sunday when only two men turned up Roy and the bagman added to their studies - the Sailor's Hornpipe.

#### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Newlands, Claygate, on Friday 15th November 1963.**

Present: C Penton, N Keam, R Duncombe, H Gibson, J Perry, W Tofts, J Brooks, Gordon Smith, Cyril Smith, M Berry, E Dowling. The rest of the club are:

John and Siward Glaister, P Dashwood, J Barclay, P Jones, L Mosley, M Stanley, P Patterson. S Kilby joins us occasionally. Ray Trevor-Wilson is emigrating to Australia shortly. Several members are lapsed but any member of Thames Valley who moves to another area continues to be regarded as a member.

1. Minutes of the previous AGM read, agreed and signed.
2. Correspondence - A number of 'thank you' letters: from R Howls re London Ring meeting and next year's Canterbury meeting; from J Barclay raising several points; Ring circular, noting particularly the agenda of next February's representatives meeting, request for nomination for new Ring squire, future Ring meetings, instructional meetings, new morris tune book, deaths of morris men and other items. After considering the names of Les Nichols and Stan Belfield, it was resolved to ask the former to accept our nomination to be Squire of the Ring. It appeared our club would like to have six of the new morris music publications. Arising out of Jim's letter it was decided to remind all members to attend practices and not to turn up only on dancing occasions: to turn up to Friday practices more often and especially on the third Friday of each month (team practice has been lacking lately owing to practices taking place on Wednesdays and Fridays and Sundays, tho less often, on Thursdays); to use the Duncombe method of subscription - 1/- each attendance up to a total of 10/- a year; that we generally (but not rigidly) decline invitations to dance at fetes. We noted Jim's wish to attend all Ring meetings but felt that circumstances must dictate our choice.
3. Ron Duncombe presented a detailed financial statement. This was accepted with thanks. In hand £39. Payment was offered to all members for travel expenses but only two accepted and then only small sums in respect of long journeys.
4. The Log written up to date was regarded as the Bagman's report and taken as read.
5. Squire's Report. Jim spoke of the great interest this year in our study of the revived traditions Wheatley, Oddington and Bidford and of the pleasure we have had under Roy Dommett's instruction.
6. Elections. Jim Brooks was re-elected Squire. Past squires to be deputies. Smith and Duncombe re-elected bagman and assistant. Pat Patterson was made a full member, he having been a member of Oxford City Men. Ted Dowling also received full membership although he continues to regard himself as a member of Greensleeves.
7. Planning: Plans for the Sheffield meeting discussed. An outline of future plans included the Boxing Day Claygate tour (other clubs to be invited to join us), an evening engagement in early January, February instructional meeting, Hocktide at Kingston, Bampton at Whitsun, Stratford, Canterbury, Durham or Winchester and possibly a Suffolk tour.  
A meeting is to be called to go into the programme in greater detail.

A.O.B. It was decided to make a money gift at Christmas time to Mrs Jim Brooks. We are very grateful for the refreshments she has provided every Wednesday evening. The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

### **1964 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

6th January. We morrised at a church hall party in Surbiton, getting the guests to country dance, too. We drew applause from the company both before the end of Frog Hop, Oddington, and the rapper. A dear old lady here told us that many years before she had danced in the Albert Hall Festival. Further conversation brought to light the fact that her partner on that occasion was a dear old gentleman - Jim Brooks.

17th January. Almost all the side and our ladies attended Ladies Pleasure at Claygate Village Hall.

19th January. Sunday morning practice at Christopher's. These practices are often attended by members of other clubs notably two or three from the Rumford Men.

1st February. Four of us attended the very enjoyable Winchester Ale.

8th February. We had a side helping Dommett demonstrate Oddington and Wheatley at the Instructional meeting at C.S.House. Westminster helped us polish Longborough.

11<sup>th</sup> February. We morrised and rapped at a church supper at West Byfleet.

21st February. Practice night was largely given over to planning for the year.

29th February. Squire and Bagman attended the representatives meeting C.S.H. Our nominee, Les Nichols, was elected Squire of the Ring by a very narrow majority.

6th March. Pyrford group's Spring Fling. We added Morris and sword to all the other folk activities.

7th March. Five of our men attended the Guildford Ale. They were glad to see admitted a member of this club, Bevis Colmer, a founder member of Thames Valley.

8th March. Practice at Christopher's.

16th March. West Surrey's visitors' night at C.S.House. We showed some Oddington and spoke about it.

5th April. Practice at Jim's.

7th April. Our Hock Tide dancing at Kingston Parish church followed the now established pattern. The weather was cold and so the crowds and bag were small. We were glad to have Roy Dommett with us.

18th April. Our Ale at Chertsey in the hall where Brian Heaton operates from. We had visitors from several other clubs - and fish and chips from across the way. Philip Sylvester came after a long absence. Martin Jolley made his first attempt to play his fiddle in public again after his illness. We listened nervously but he did fine. We were interested to know that Jim Brooks danced his very first morris in this hall in 1929.

23rd April. Claygate EFDSS group demonstrated at a R.C. church party at Weston Green, Esher. Squire and bagman danced a few jigs, Tony Pegram of Heston Boys playing.

24th April. We morrised and rapped as the cabaret turn at yet another glittering civic function, the Esher U.D.C. Chairman's banquet in the Richmond Hill Hotel to local notabilities, including for example, the Bishop of Guildford and the M.P. for Esher. Dommett and Gordon had devised a morris in the Longborough style to the tune of Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill (wrong Richmond, we know). We liked it a lot and learned it but had to leave it out for lack of time!

2nd May. A full side were the guests at Chertsey to Ted Dowling's 21st birthday party. Ted is a member of Greensleeves as well as Thames Valley.

3rd May. We morrised and country danced at an half day course run by John at his ancestral home Braziers Park. We have done this several times before. We had one or two stops on the way home, notably at the Bells of Ouzley.

9th May. The bagman attended a West Sussex course at Pulborough and, as he helped Nibs Matthews teach some Ilmington, it can be mentioned here. On this day a full side enjoyed the Westminster Day which followed its usual pattern and now, happily, includes Trafalgar Square as a pitch.

17th May. This was a somewhat odd occasion. Four men only attempted to carry out an engagement at the Festival of the Inland Waterways at Godalming. Brian Heaton was present privately, so to speak, but played for some jigs. In the large and appreciative crowd were a member of the Guildford Men and a Benfleet Hoyman. These were fitted out with gear and the side so made up gave an excellent show in a very lovely spot.

18th May. Many of us and our ladies attended the traditional morris meeting at Bampton. We watched and learned. In the afternoon and evening we had a most successful tour of our own to Eynsham, Islip, Woodstock and Wheatley. We had the unnerving experience of helping with a punctured tyre on an Aston Martin (Christopher's).

23 - 24 May. We attended Thaxted with a full side. This meeting followed, its usual enjoyable course, the weather helping.

7th June. Practice at Christopher's.

12 - 13 June. We attended the Stratford meeting. Heavy rain in the evenings made for some difficulty. The tour was splendid: Thaxted Men were our companions. We visited Chipping Camden, Stow-on-the-Wold, the Rolright Stones and, most interestingly from our special point of view, Oddington. Here we proudly showed the locals their own dances. Impressed? Certainly polite and friendly. The massed dancing was good as also were the feast and speeches. There was more massed dancing after church on Sunday. We toured home, dancing at Woodstock and Sonning and singing and drinking at Twyford.

21st June. Practice at Christopher's.

23rd June. Christopher has a fine garden and here, at dusk, for the entertainment of his guests, we danced the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance. We had begged the antlers from the gamekeeper of Bushy Park and Jim Brooks had made them up appropriately. Bill's sons joined in with bow and triangle. Jim Barclay was an extra character in a full suit of medieval armour. This was an interesting and enjoyable occasion.

The following day several of our club members and members of local EFDSS groups went with a party led by Brian Heaton to Denmark for a week. As well as country dancing they danced Cotswold morris, Royton morris and rapper sword. They used the name Curfew Club. This is a revival of an old Chertsey club of which Jim Brooks and John were members before 1939. Curfew has a local reference.

Arising out of this and because our practices have been poorly attended because of Danish tour rehearsals, an idea was considered whether to divide our club into Thames Valley Ancient Men and Curfew younger men. The idea was to make sure that there was a club with youthful members and style while the Ancient Men could potter gently into their graves. The upshot of this was that the younger men rejected the idea - a happy and friendly result.

4th July. The Sussex tour arranged by John and Mervyn. Morning stops were made at Chiddingfold, Alford and Fittleworth. The afternoon was spent at Climping, swimming and playing ball games. Evening stops were at Compton for dancing and finally singing.

11th July. Kingston EFDSS district Festival at Thames Ditton vicarage. Jim Brooks and Ron ran a bowls game on our behalf and collected £4.12.6. for the Society. Some boys from Carshalton showed some morris.

18th July. Jim Barclay and Jim Perry arranged a short morris tour taking in fetes at Chobham and Woking.

25th July. We had a side at the enjoyable Canterbury Day. We joined Ravensbourne at Maidstone and danced at Charing and Chilham - most attractive places for morris dancing. The massed dancing was excellent as was our high tea. Afterwards we and other teams danced in the shopping precincts and late at night stopped for drinking and dancing at Godstone. During this day we transported and took under our wing the Carshalton schoolboys we had met earlier. We hope they learned from the trip. Since then John has come regularly from his school in Sussex to Carshalton to give them instruction.

31st July. A full side practised at Jim's.

19th August. A party of club members and friends was held at Jim Brooks' home to see transparencies and Roy Dommett's films.

21st August. Practice at Jim's.

22nd August. A tour taking us to a Traction Engine Exhibition at Goring. We assembled and danced at a pub near Caversham and went on to this big exhibition and showed the morris as a sideshow. Touring home we started dancing at Caversham Bridge. We were ordered off by a park keeper. We went quietly but the keeper seemed, for a while, to be in danger of being lynched by the disappointed crowd. The bagman was at fault for not getting written permission to dance in a public open space. The next stop was most successful by the river at Windsor. We finished at our old haunt, the Bells of Ouzely. We had some singing here led by a casual acquaintance, locally resident.

4th September. We were just about represented at the Durham Ring meeting by Laurie Mosley and the bagman. It was a great pity the son et lumiere was rained off on the Saturday evening.

12th September. We attended the fine Winchester Ring meeting on the Saturday morning. Our tour took us down the lovely Meon valley with the Colchester men. The morris around Winchester city was splendid and all admired "go and enlist" danced by Lionel Bacon and Les Nichols, outgoing and incoming Ring Squires. Excellent feat, fine cathedral service on Sunday and dancing in a neighbouring garden. We were too few to dance home but we became tourists - tea-ing, swimming and drinking.

19th September. As in earlier years we showed the morris at St Pauls school fete, Addlestone, where local friends teach.

3 - 4 October. Morris tour of New Forest villages: Brook, Cadnam, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst. Dancers Jim Barclay, Mervyn Stanley, Stan Kilby, Hugh Gibson, Siward Glaister and Francis Smith. John played his mouth organ and 'Ron the Knee' his concertina. The £5 bag was spent immediately on transport and refreshment.

16th October. Jim Brooks and Jim Barclay attended the meeting for club leaders at Chipperfield. They learned and enjoyed. Jim Brooks gave a careful report to his clubmates.

23rd October. Kingston EFDSS District held their autumn festival at Ronayne Hall, Hampton Wick. The bagman "called" and Jim Brooks ran a very successful produce stall. Norman is the treasurer of this District.

28th November. The whole club and ladies were guests at Norman's and his wife's party to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary and also their daughter's 21st birthday. During the evening we danced enthusiastic morris and Norman and Jim Brooks danced "Go and enlist" most attractively.

11th December. What set out to be a rehearsal at Christopher's home for a later show became a very careful and enjoyable demonstration at Brooklands Technical College to the music club there. Christopher lectured and commented on the morris, particularly the music. As it happened, five original members of Thames Valley plus Jim Barclay demonstrated. We captured our real style and old form. Very enjoyable and satisfying. Local resident, comedian Eric Sykes, made a draw and referred to the Goons East Acton Sword Dance!

15th December. We demonstrated some country dancing with some Claygate ladies, also morris and rapper, at a party at Old Windsor. We were reminded here of the value of our insurance - bits of long sticks flew about. Gordon said that, without missing a beat, he could dodge two pieces of stick - but not more.

26th December. Boxing Day at Claygate once more. This year was one of the best - good weather, good crowds, good dancing (I think) and good bag (£11). Jim Brooks and Jim Barclay danced a beautiful doublem "Baccy Pipes" jig for the squire change over. I would claim this performance could hardly be bettered. We had 11 men out including Brian Heaton. At the Swan the final rapper was danced in no clear space at all in the crowded bar: kept in tight indeed.

28th December. We had enough for a second 'Boxing Day'. Starting at John's home with a showing of a film of last year's Boxing Day tour, we went on to the Black Prince, New Haw, and the Otter, Ottershaw. In the afternoon we showed the morris and rapper to the children at Woking Railway Orphanage and after tea at Bill's to old people at Weylands, Weybridge. Pub stops in the evening were Queens Head, Byfleet, very good; Saddlers Arms, Send, and Black Swan, Martyrs Green, less good.

1964 has been a good year, the Council dinner at Richmond being perhaps the high light. We continue to find great interest in helping Dommatt research. As well as the Oddington and Wheatley we have had a look at the Bidford and Chipping Campden traditions. Meeting the Chipping Campden men at Stratford fired us with a desire to put some of their dances into our repertory. We like the two rarely danced Princess Royals, Ilmington and Adderbury. The latter is in Dommatt's version - not the one danced, very attractively, by Westminster. We are also much taken with Kirklington Trunkles. Have we become too dilettante? Great fun!

## **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held. 27th November 1964 at Newlands, Claygate.**

Present - Jim Brooks, Mervyn Stanley, Hugh Gibson, Jim Barclay, Francis Smith, John Glaister, Peter Jones, Gordon Smith, Bill Tofts, Christopher Penton, Siward Glaister, Mark Berry, Jim Perry, Ron Duncombe and Cyril Smith.

1. Minutes of the 1963 AGM were not available: they will be put before club members as soon as possible.
2. Correspondence. Several letters of thanks for performances during the year were read. The latest Ring circular was read in its entirety. The invitation from Kenneth Clark producer of the next Albert Hall Festival to join the massed morris was accepted. The invitations to a dance at Westminster and Ales from Guildford, Winchester and Woodside were read as also were invitations to show the morris at various places. These latter were considered later under planning.
3. Finance. A statement was presented by Ron Duncombe, debated and received with thanks. Cash in hand £27. It was resolved (Bill Tofts proposing, Ron seconding) that we should pay 10/- a year subscription.

4. Bagman's report The Log, written up to date, regarded as the report and taken as read.
5. Squire's report. Jim Brooks spoke of all the year's activities, of the relation between our club and the Ring and reported on the Chipperfield meeting for squires and deputies. He stressed the point made at that meeting on the desirability of greater loyalty to the Ring and to one another.
6. Election of Officers. Jim Barclay was elected Squire Designate - to dance in on Boxing Day. Cyril Smith is to continue as bagman but to be assisted by Hugh Gibson with a view to taking over. Combined with this arrangement Hugh would take over from Ron as assistant bagman with its prime job of holding the money. Several members expressed thanks to other club members for special efforts from time to time. This was so general that it could be seen every member had contributed his share to the club's success and the friendship of the members.
7. Election of members. Francis Smith was made a full member of the club on the recommendation of Jim Brooks. Mark Berry, with regret, had to say he must cease active membership on his removal to Farnham. (This is not resignation: all members continue in membership even if inactive).
8. Provisional plans were made to attend: Winchester Ale, March Instructional meeting, September Oxford meeting, to dance at Walton in July and Horsham in August and to dance at Kingston at Hocktide as usual.
9. A.O.B. After debate, it was decided to accept invitations to dance at fetes rather more than in 1964 but less often than in earlier years. It was decided to press a little harder for the bag.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

## **1965 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

19th & 20th February. Apart from regular practices, our appearance in the Morris item at the Albert Hall Festival was our first outing in 1965. We were glad to be included - to dance and to watch the fine Jocky/Green Man Princess Royal Suite.

13th March. The instruction meeting at C.S.House. We enjoyed Belfield's and Metcalf's teaching and also the hilarious street dancing at lunch time.

9th April. We danced by way of practice at the Queen's Head, Byfleet. We propose, as a policy, to do this occasionally.

10th April. We attended in costume Siward's wedding and danced both at the church and at the reception. Jenny, his new wife, has toured with us so often that this seemed specially a morris wedding.

23rd April. Our Ale again at Brian Heaton's hall at Chertsey. Our guests included Les Nicholls, Squire of the Ring, and some of his Greensleeves teammates, some East Surrey men including Wally Randle, some Guildford men and Tony Pegram and some of his Heston boys. Tony was glad for his boys to share in this sort of Morris occasion.

27th April. Hock tide at Kingston parish church. This event has become a little perfunctory. It is at dusk, often chilly and has few onlookers. Kingston, a very commercial town, is empty and 'dead' after Business hours.

1st May. Many of us went to Padstow for the May Day celebrations (and met almost the entire EFDSS). With Brian playing we morrised at Newquay in the afternoon.

15th May. We danced at a fete in Walton and toured afterwards to the Ship, Shepperton, and the Feathers, Laleham.

22nd May. Some morris and rapper was practised at a Kingston District weekend at Crowlink, Sussex.

26th May. We danced morris at an international gathering of London University in Gower St., London.

28th May. We had a party at Claygate village hall to show films and transparencies .of our activities. A number of non-Morris friends attended.

29th May. We carried out, briefly and with route finding difficulties, two engagements at Addlestone and West Horsley.

11th June. We morrised as an item in a Women's Institute celebration party at Chiddingfold. This promised to be a decorous affair but became a near riot. The hospitality was wonderful and the men got themselves involved with a group of high stepping dancing girls.

15th June. Signing of Magna Carta was celebrated at Runnymede. We supplied Morris and rapper to a fairly ambitious dance programme produced by Brian Heaton. It rained. Did it rain on King John and continually ever since? We went to the Bells of Ouzeley - again.

19th June. Starting with an 'advertising' show at the Black Prince, New Haw, we rushed over to the Orphanage fete at Woking and then back to the main show at New Haw. Then, to honour an engagement about which there had been confusion, over to a scout fete at Shepperton. Phew!

3rd July. The very fine Wells Ring meeting. Our tour, with Bathampton Men, took us to Somerton, Martock, Keinton Mandeville - here we danced for a bridal party: something we have done several times in our history - Castle Cary and so back. At Wells at the massed dancing in front of the cathedral, the oft-wished-for miracle - ground opening beneath feet - failed to occur even for us. Musicians and team got onto different tunes for the Oddington. Disaster. A very chastened outfit attended the fine feast - local dishes and good speeches - in the splendid Bishop's Barn. Next morning at the camp site, dancing the Oddington for filming, we fell into argument with a critic. The tone became rather sharp, possibly because of our harrowing experience of the day before. After the meeting we joined Bathampton, Oxford University and Dr Luckwill in a show for a local hospital and afterwards were given a lovely strawberry tea.

17th July. Based on the London Apprentice pub we danced the afternoon away on the towpath at Isleworth Regatta. Heston Boys were with us. In the evening we were added to a programme of outdoor Shakespeare in an extremely lovely garden at Byfleet.

4th August. West Sussex Women's Institutes were celebrating their jubilee at Christ's Hospital, Horsham. We danced the morris for these ladies and enjoyed seeing the famous school and eating in its fine hall.

6th August. The bagman looked in momentarily at Sidmouth Festival.

11th June, we joined in the Windsor Day of Dance. Returning in the evening the Side was joined by Jim Brooks, and Cyril Smith (who had danced jigs at the Thames Valley EFDSS Children's Festival at Kingston: Jim Brooks' Wolf Cubs had also danced the morris) and toured the Bridge Hotel, Chertsey, and the Anchor, Wisley.

3rd September. Oxford Ring meeting. Splendid. We were quartered in Christ Church - right under Old Tom of Oxford. I like the dance much better than the bell: I heard every stroke of it during our stay there. We toured with two Hammersmith men and a Bangor side. Siward, formerly a member and their coach, pointed out that they were really a football team but - they did well in this, their debut. We went to Kidlington and Weston and Bicesier and, in the afternoon, most successfully at the Radcliffe Camera. The civic reception, feast and matins were, as always, enjoyable. The rain came a few minutes too early.

18th September. We morrised while John called and sang at a village dance in a splendid old barn at West Hoathiey.

25th September. The Dorset tour, arranged for us by Peter Dashwood, formerly of ours and now a Society representative. Some of us assembled and slept at Peter's HQ at Wimborne. The weather was wet. We danced at Dorchester, Sydling and Cerne Abbas and returned to lunch at Dorchester and to spend a wet post-prandial tour in its museum. Then the weather relented and we danced on Weymouth seafront. After a meal we danced at Portesham and then outside and inside a fine new pub near Chickerell. The morris and rapper in a crowded bar is spoken of to this day, I'm told. We camped and lodged in Weymouth with friends and went off to morris at Wareham, (here joined by a former beau of Lond on City) at Corfe and, very picturesquely, at Kingston Matravers. Here Peter left us in case we danced illicitly at Corfe Castle. We did - to fine crowds and bag. We had one more pitch at a Corfe cafe, by invitation and for a free tea. Then home. A splendid tour to be repeated in the future.

1st October. The usual autumn fair of Kingston EFDSS District at the Ronayne Hall, Hampton Wick. We had our produce stall and helped in other ways.

2nd October. We morrised -and rapped and joined in country dancing at a Townswomen's Guild supper at Caterham. Food and drink is apt to be a major feature of these affairs.

8<sup>th</sup> October. We did it again at a Halliford W.I. supper! We went on to morris at the Goat, Halliford.

30th October. Saw us attending attentively to Bill Cassie at the day of rapper instruction at C.S.House.

12th November. AGM at Claygate.

8th December. Having given a morris show at Shepperton village hall (to John's mouth organ music) we joined Jim Perry's Christmas dance at the Links Hotel, Ashford. Morris and rapper and a good deal of pretty riotous country dancing.

26th December. Two Boxing Days again this year. We assembled and danced - as so many times before - in Christopher's garden. Because of his wife's illness he has not been able to be with us in recent months. We were happy to find Nancy somewhat recovered and to drink C's beer again. Then we went to an old haunt, the King's Head, Shepperton. We danced, very profitably, in the Square there. Then we went, once again, to dance to and with the children at the Railway Orphanage, Woking. This was nearer to a riot than anything heretofore. Exhausted, we tottered on to other old friends, at the Weyland Old People's home. We morrised, gently, at their Christmas party.

27th December. Claygate as usual: possibly the best ever. As in previous years the BBC had mentioned this tour on their South East News radio. The weather, though cold, was bright. We kept to our timetable this time. The crowds were big, friendly and generous. We collected £15. We had the whole club of active dancers out including Laurie Mosley and also Ray McCarthy of Twickenham. Ted Perry emerged

from retirement and did a number of dances. Christopher at one stage wore his suit of medieval armour.

Occasionally during the year, there have been moments when the club faltered: the old 'uns turned, out when the young 'uns did not. The Boxing Day turnout removed this worry. The year was without highlights but gave us all continuous enjoyment in the morris. Having a youthful squire in a team of older and experienced dancers has been a complete success. Jim Barclay's personality and fine dancing are, of course, the chief reasons for this. John Glaister continues to give instruction fortnightly to the Carshalton boys. And we have been invited to dance at the Albert Hall again.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Balley Morris Men held 12th November 1965 at Newland College, Claygate.**

Present: Jim Brooks, Jim Perry, Jim Barclay, Siward Glaister, John Glaister, Peter Jones, Norman Keam, Gordon Smith, Francis Smith, Cyril Smith, Ron Duncombe, Bill Tofts, Mervyn Stanley, Stan Kilby.

1. Minutes of the 1964 AGM read, agreed and signed.
2. Matters arising - none.
3. Correspondence - Several letters of thanks for performances were read. The latest Ring circular was read and considered in its entirety. Letter from East Surrey telling us of Wally Randalls's death: resolved to send a letter expressing our sorrow. Resolved to write to Christopher expressing sadness at his wife's continued ill health.
4. Finance - Ron reported £28 in hand and submitted a statement. This was accepted with thanks. It was resolved to give £10 to EFDSS and to pay certain small sums to some members' transport costs.
5. Squire's Report - Squire confined himself to asking for earlier information of members intention to attend for shows.
6. Bagman's Report - contained, as usual, in the Log and taken as read.
7. Election of Officers - Squire Jim Barclay, bagman Cyril Smith and assistant bagman Ron Duncombe, re-elected. The arrangement decided on the previous year that had not come into effect for private reasons, that Hugh Gibson should take an increasing part in bagman's duties, was to be continued.
8. Planning - After deciding on some of the major features of next year's plans, greater detail was left to a later meeting.
9. A.O.B. - It was resolved to hold an Open Day early in the year at Kingston and to make special efforts to get the attendance at it of possible recruits to the Side. This is bearing in mind our numbers are lower than formerly. Bagman was asked to write to Ring Bagman offering to make nominations for the next Squire of the Ring if this was helpful. Alan Brown of Monkseaton was taken as first choice.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

(Signed) Jim Barclay.

## **1966 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

The club was off to an early start in 1966. Not, however, with morris. Five members of the Antiquarian section of TVMM went off on 5th January (Old Christmas Day) to Somerset. Having lunched rather lavishly at Wells, we went to examine the painted ceiling of Muchelney parish church and the site of the very ancient Muchelney Abbey. We called at the William IV at Curry Rivel to talk about and photograph the beautifully made ashen faggots which figure in the evening's ceremony. After tea, skittles at the Crown, Drayton, till the time came to join that village's ancient wassailing ceremony. This we witnessed, taped, photographed and, later, joined. We waited at Curry Rivel for the faggotting but we enjoyed this vestige of an old rite less than the rest of the day's activities including the long ride back in the frosty night.

14 - 16 January found us back in Somerset, three for the weekend and John and Jim Barclay for the Saturday; for the morris course at Halsway Manor. We enjoyed this greatly including a fine walk in snow over the Quantocks and the riotous ceilidh dominated by Dommett.

29th January We again attended the Ale of our friends the Winchester Men.  
10th February We had undertaken to do our version of the mummings play, including in it some rapper, as a curtain raiser to the Claygate village pantomime. Of the performance someone remarked: "Very interesting. Pity they couldn't have had a run through beforehand." The panto was excellent.

12th February After the Albert Hall Festival practice at C.S. House, we went to Shepperton to morris as an item in a country dance party.

18 - 19 February We were very happy to have been invited to supply teams for the massed morris in the two Festival performances at the Albert Hall. We also enjoyed the show and some of us helped musically.

At this time the club entered the doldrums. So far this year the practices were very badly attended and Gordon Smith, attending regularly but finding himself extremely busy extra-morris, decided he must drop out. The writer feared that the loss to the club of Gordon, so valued as good companion, musician and artist, might be 'fatal' to it. This proved not so but we miss Gordon very much.

12<sup>th</sup> March We morrised at parties at Addlestone and Chertsey.

3<sup>rd</sup> April Our friend Roy Dommett journeyed down to the Chanctonbury Ring Men to instruct in the Oddington. He took Jim Brooks with him to demonstrate. Most of the research into this tradition having been done at Jim's home, Jim really ranks as an Oddington expert now.

16<sup>th</sup> April Jim Barclay's fiancée's birthday and engagement party at Carshalton was largely a morris affair. We were there in strength and elements of many other clubs were also. Great Party.

19th April .Tuesday evening: hocktide in Kingston. Well, we did dance a couple of morris and then dived out of the wet into the dry and the wet.

22<sup>nd</sup> April Our Ladies Pleasure at a friend's school in Walton-on-Thames. We were glad to have our ladies with us as well as Patterson and Oxford friends. We had an excellent meal and much country dancing.

30th April We had a short Sussex tour to Newick. Hereabouts we met Scan Tester, a folk musician (fiddle, concertina and voice) in his 80th.year. He travelled with us for the rest of the day to our pleasure and interest.

5<sup>th</sup> May The Kingston District of the Society has a demonstration squad of which some of us are members. At a demonstration out of doors in a Richmond-on-Thames civic centre we danced our country dance suite (very attractive one, we think) as well as morris and rapper.

21<sup>st</sup> May John took his van full of us to Thaxted for the Saturday only. We had a side on a tour and watched the traditional evening activities. We did not attend the feast but travelled home during the evening.

1st June Many of us were dancing in the country dance demonstration at Hayes, Mx, Oddly, we did not morris - Highland dancing, instead.

11 th June An afternoon and evening tour started in a fine garden in Chiddingfold. The glorious sunshine, the friendly crowds, the pleasant pitches, the swim at Winkworth Arboretum and the dancing mood stay in the writer's mind.

15th June As on earlier occasions we morrised at a small concert at the London Student Movement, Gower St., to foreign visitors. The Englishry enjoyed showing off their native dances to these visitors.

18th June We took part in a fairly ambitious and very enjoyable dancing (country, morris and rapper) tour run for the two Society Districts by Brian Heaton. This included stops at Epsom and, later, Box Hill and Bookham and finally in the splendid grounds of Polesden Lacey. Miss Meikle, so very important to us in our early dancing days, came to watch for a while.

25th June John G. got together a side to morris on a Saturday evening at Plaw Hatch, the country club of the trade union movement.

1st - 2nd July. This was the Farnborough Men's tour. We joined them for morris at the Wool pack, Elstead, on Friday evening and returned next day for the tour. We finished with a notable outdoor feast at the White Hart, Holybourne, where the chef was formerly a morris man.

9th July. Greensleeves had a tour in our neighbourhood and the writer joined them as onlooker for a couple of pitches at Walton-on-Thames.

14th July. We showed the morris and rapped at the last of a series of outdoor dances in the grounds of the recently restored, very lovely Palladian house, Marble

Hill, Twickenham. This series had been arranged, on behalf of the EFDSS, by Brian Heaton. We enjoyed the occasion and arising out of it several young men announced they wished to join TVMM. One or two came to practise a few times but have not carried on.

16th July. This tour started out as a normal, pleasant tour arranged by Siward and Mervyn to villages below Leith Hill. At Cranleigh, however, occurred the mysterious affair of Hugh. He was in great fooling form and engaged in some ragging with a party of dashing young people. As a gag, he joined them in their cars. Nothing more was seen of him for 18 hours nor have his activities during that time ever been clearly described. The rest of us continued the tour 'but, and this is surely unusual, danced in an abstracted manner. The police had to struggle to be wonderful when, in the small hours, they were given a description of the missing man - two hats, one a topper, a black smock, bells on his legs and two bladders, one tied to a cow's tail. Hughie may be regarded as being the sociological section of TVMM, he having carried out researches into high life in remoter Sussex.

23rd July. We supplied the morris and rapper for the Phoenix club annual show in Trafalgar Square. It was a lovely hot afternoon and the crowds were enormous.

20th August. Our short evening tour started off with difficulties in Twickenham on account of a shortage of experienced dancers. The crowd was kind and we enjoyed ourselves. More men turned up later at our old stamping ground at Church Square, Shepperton, and the evening went on excitingly enough.

3rd -4th September. Leicester Ring meeting. We drove up early on Saturday and joined our tour at its first pitch. The tour was as enjoyable as ever: as also was the Feast. We were not much taken with the massed dancing in the city centre but this is a tiny con to set against a multitude of morris pros. On Sunday the church service was most interesting: two clubs dancing morris during the service. Sadly the remainder of the meeting was spoilt by torrential rain.

22nd September. Jim Barclay had his (very traditional) stag party a day or so before his wedding at Hersham. The majority of his friends are Morris men so the occasion must be mentioned here.

2rd September. The Kingston EFDSS District had its annual autumn dance at Hampton Wick at which we assisted with a produce stall and some morris.

24th September. Jim Barclay was married to his Pamela. A lovely wedding and the morris took its place in the ceremony and reception. After the bride and groom left the morris men called at the Duke's Head, Carshalton - to find another wedding in progress. More morris and invitations to drink by the bride's father.

25th September. A special visit by Roy Dommatt to Jim's house to show and practise Princess Royal, Bidford; ready to show it later on at Halsway Manor.

30th September. Gordon Smith and Cyril of that ilk gave an illustrated talk on folk dancing to students at Student Movement House, Gower St. This turned out to be largely concerning the morris because of the bigger number of pictures of it available.

8th October. We spent a long, leisurely dancing lunch at the Feathers, Laleham. We particularly enjoyed the music of John Kirkpatrick of, the Hammersmith Men. Then we drove off to Ramsbury in Wiltshire, danced in the Village street, had a lavish tea as guests of the villagers and then took a very full part in the dancing, rapper and morris, in the Village hall which was elaborately decorated as a barn. George Emerson called and Jim Perry's band played. Before leaving we were given supper. Such hospitality! Such Dancing!

21st - 23rd October. We had a team at the Halsway Manor weekend run by Julian Filling and Roy Dommatt. We briefly showed the Bidford and looked at films and lesser known traditions. We had the usual wild ceilidh and walked over the Quantocks. The drive home was great fun, too. Jim Brooks had, apparently, an hilarious war.

28th October. We carried out an engagement again at Plaw Hatch the T.U. club. This might have been less than successful but, interestingly, John Glaister took the affair by the scruff of the neck and shook the lukewarm visitors into enjoyment!

1st November We morrised, rapped and sang at a Townswomens Guild meeting at Wallington. David, a recruit and a folk singer of note locally, fooled and led the singing.

11th November Our AGM at the Foley Arms, Claygate.

19th November Francis was married to his Margaret. We all attended and did our traditional things. Again, a lovely wedding.

Recalling the weddings of members of our club - of which there have been quite a number - one realises that the brides are all beautiful and all charming. Is it because they are morris men that my clubmates have the choice of the loveliest girls in the Thames Valley?

**5th - 10th December** This weeklong activity was a very notable episode in Thames Valley Morris history. As we were asked rather late to take part in a Thames Ditton Drama Circle production of Beaumont and Fletcher's "Knight of the Burning Pestle" the importance of it did not at first dawn on us. We found ourselves called on to attend five rehearsals and three performances and that the morris is an integral part of the story of the play. A great apron stage was built out into the hall, the whole of which was made to resemble a street scene of about 1640. We morrised on this stage for 15 minutes before the show began, with orange, nut and punch sellers in the audience and the actors with us ready to go into their lines when we heyed away. We danced for a further 15 minutes in the longer interval and, in the final scene, we sent up poor Ralph, the Knight, in the Eynsham fashion. At one point in the play, Ralph, in morris costume, makes a long, fine speech about the Morris at May Day. We danced and rapped in the after-the-show party. Bert Cleaver played for us throughout on his pipe and tabor - this being judged to be specially suitable for this play. We enjoyed the company and found the whole thing great fun and, we think, artistically important.

We hope to be invited to take part again if and when this splendid production is put on in the City Arts Festival.

11th December Despite the party after 'the Knight' before, the mountaineering section of TVMM were away by 8am to Firle to do the Southdown Traverse - Firle Beacon to Beachy Head and Eastbourne. It was a glorious day with glorious views and a splendid lunch at The Tiger, East Dean. We bussed back to Firle and spent time drinking homebrewed among other liquors at the Ram. Yet again we enjoyed one of our drives home through the night. There was no dancing on this expedition: enough to put one foot in front of the other without lifting them into the air.

23rd December We had a side for morris and rapper at the Guildford Folk Song Club ceilidh. We met there other club members and many of our old country dancing friends.

26th December Claygate Boxing Day tour was this year one of the best we have had. Greensleeves were with us again. Bert Cleaver piped and drummed. The weather was very sunny and not too cold. The crowds were big and generous. The old squire, Jim Barclay, danced himself out and the new squire, Siward, danced himself in. Grand.

27th December As is now becoming usual, we had a second Boxing Day tour. Bert turned out with us again to our great content. We started outside and inside the King's Arms, Shepperton, as so often. Then we went to the Ashley Arms, Walton. Lunched at Queens Arms, Byfleet. As usual (again) we spent the afternoon at the Railway Orphanage, Woking. The previous day Wilfred Pickles had run a party here for television in the same hall with the same children. All the TV critics noticed the chilly atmosphere. We found at our party a vastly different one - noise and gaiety and dancing which left us exhilarated and exhausted. We showed the children some dances and, bless me soul, they showed us some!

Christopher Penton has not been out with us this year because of his wife's illness. We have been to see him from time to time. In November Nancy died. We grieved. She had done so much for us - designed our costumes, made and given us our so-much-admired waistcoats, entertained us many times and given us her gay company on many tours and other morris occasions. Christopher joined us briefly on Boxing Day and danced once.

The fears of the writer that the club would decline were quite unfounded. The men returned unprompted and up to 16 or 17 turned up regularly to practice. Jim Perry plays for us as often as required despite being busy with his own band. Colin Buckley improves rapidly and joins the side when dancing publicly. Ron Brand, an older man and friend of Dave Sowerby, a notable morris dancer in the Curfew of pre-war days, attends practices regularly. Jim Brooks has fairly regular attendances at his home on Wednesdays of young men feeling their way into the morris. John Glaister continues to train and has now thoroughly established his Wandle Boys. Bert Cleaver is turning out with us nowadays. John plays various instruments more and more as well as helping with instruction. On Boxing Day we danced three sides easily, including, of course, Greensleeves.

Thames Valley Morris Men continue dancing vigorously.

## **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held 11th November 1966 at the Foley Hall, Claygate.**

PRESENT: Jim Brooks, Jim Barclay, Jim Perry, Bill Tofts, Hugh Gibson, Norman Keam, Mervyn Stanley, Francis Smith, Cyril Smith, Siward Glaister, John Glaister, Ron Duncombe. Ted Perry and Christopher Penton sent apologies for absence.

1. Minutes of the 1965 AGM were read, agreed and signed.
2. Matters arising - The proposed recruiting meeting to be held during the year was cancelled because it clashed with an EFDSS arrangement but it was decided to make another attempt next year.
3. Correspondence - The Ring circular was considered and arising from this it was decided to attend the instruction meeting, Thaxted, Brighton and, possibly, Sutton Coldfield next year.
4. It was resolved to send a letter expressing our sadness at Mrs Penton's continued ill health: this had been the reason of Christopher's missing a season's morris and his non-attendance at the meeting.
5. Finance - Ron reported £29 in hand and submitted a statement. This was accepted with thanks. It was resolved to give £5 to the EFDSS and to lend £5 to the Folk Week Fund.
6. Bagman's Report - The log written up to date was regarded as the report and taken as read.
7. Squire's Report Jim Barclay commented briefly on the poor start to the year's activities and to the improvement as the year went on. He urged the men to greatly improve the rapper and suggested special practices of chosen dances before shows.
8. Election of Officers - A wide discussion arose out of the consideration of nominations to the offices. Much shorter tours were urged. The Squire was asked to be firmer in choosing men to take part in dances: all agreed to accept this direction in good part. The acceptance of invitations to show the morris must be considered somewhat more carefully.  
Siward was elected Squire, Hugh was elected Bagman and Francis was elected Assistant Bagman, responsible for holding the money. These elections were unanimous.  
Thanks for their services in the offices they relinquish were offered to Jim Barclay, Cyril Smith and Ron Duncombe.
9. Planning - Next year's programme left over to another occasion.
10. A.O.B. - Plans to take part in the Ember Players "Knight of the Burning Pestle" in December and the two Boxing Day tours were discussed.  
Jim Brooks suggested spending a fixed time at each practice to the revived traditions shown us chiefly by Roy Dommett.  
Siward asked for punctuality at practices.  
The meeting closed at 10.20pm

## **1967 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

5th January - Two of the men and a wife made what is becoming an annual sortie - this time to Somerset to make a new recording and take photographs of the Drayton Wassailing, calling at Cadbury camp the possible site of Camelot en route. A very enjoyable day.

26th January - We morrised at a party at New Haw.

4th February - Five of us attended the Winchester Ale. An unfortunate journey made us very late: our hosts were sympathetic and we enjoyed ourselves as usual.

17th February - We attended the Festival Ceilidh at C.S.House and showed, in particular, the Oddington.

18th February - We were represented at the Reps meeting and Norman and Bill were among our District dancers at the Albert Hall.

11th March - We were represented at the Instruction meeting at C.S.House as usual.

18th March - We enjoyed the hospitality of the Guildford Men at their Ale at the Merrist Wood Farm Institute. TVMM outnumbered their hosts and other guests - greedy but great fun.

15th April - Hocktide has become a movable feast as far as TVMM are concerned. We moved it from the previous Tuesday. We danced at various pitches in Kingston and Ham. We had with us the Heston Boys and their master Tony Pegram. Dancing and bag very satisfactory.

19th April - George Lawrence's funeral. Ron Duncombe attended this on his own behalf and ours. It is difficult to write down how much those who knew him thought of George and how grieved we are at his death. It disturbs us to recall that the first time his heart condition was noticed was after he danced Jockey, Headington, on a visit to us. It was George's gaiety and keenness and skill that helped create the special club quality of the TVMM.

18th April. - We morrised at a Leatherhead Youth Club.

29th April - 5th May - Folk Week. We took a full part in this, morrissing, rapping and country dancing with our Groups and Districts at Leatherhead, Pyrford and at Marble Hill, Twickenham. This last was followed by a tour taking in Kingston and Thames Ditton.

13th May - We were guests of Hammersmith Men on their day-long tour and at their Ale in the London Rowing Club in the evening. The tour followed its usual enjoyable pattern and the Ale was as boisterous as Hammersmith and TVMM tend to make it.

17th May - We morrised at an Ashford, Mx, country dance party.

19th May - We joined - in order to strengthen the turnout - the Guildford Men at a morris at Horsell near Woking.

20th May - A tour of Shepperton (a school and pubs) and the Golden Grove, Lyne. Later still we showed the morris at a private barbecue.

29th May - During this Whit weekend we took part, through a private invitation, in the Well Dressing ceremonies at Wirksworth, Derbys. We morrised our part in the civic opening and several times later in the day but had to struggle with very wet weather. We returned to assist on the Monday, a glorious day. We had particularly successful stops at the Malt Shovel and around midday in the town centre where we joined the Derby M.M. (They were extremely amiable about this). In the afternoon we earned the gratitude and an invitation to come again when we entertained, as they say, an enormous crowd hanging about disappointed by the cancelling of many other forms of entertainment because of a waterlogged field. The day ended bibulously at the Malt Shovel. This reminds the writer we were glad to have with us Bert Cleaver and Gordon Myland of St Albans M.M. - out with us for the weekend.

3rd June - Tour starting from the Jolly Farmer, Staines. After several pitches we went to a country dance party at the splendid 15th century, barn at Hardwicke, Chertsey. There was a great deal of singing on this occasion. Bert and Gordon also Ted Dowling of Greensleeves were with us.

16th June - As a result of a young teacher at Claygate Primary School having taught his boys Flamhorough sword dance for a school occasion, eight small boys met at the home of two of them, the writer's grand sons, Elm Farm, Claygate to learn the morris. These meetings took place regularly for the rest of the year, latterly in the Foley Hall on the evenings before the Men started their practice.

17th June - Tour of Weybridge, Walton, Cobham, East Horsley and Byfleet. At the Walton pitch we shared the fine space in the shopping precinct with London Pride: our tours having crossed. The last dancing of the day was at a private party in Byfleet.

18th June - The writer went with an EFDSS party to Ireland in August. Morris and rapper was a major part of the activity and so can be mentioned here. The first rehearsal at Reading took place on this day.

23rd June - Christopher Penton held his St John the Baptist party at his home. This is, as in previous years, held in his fine garden at Weybridge. His clubmates are pleased he continues to hold it. We showed the morris and rapper and sang the Boar's Head carol when the magnificent boar's head, prepared by Hugh's Hilda, was brought in as the centre piece to the feast, also prepared by the morris ladies. Foreign visitors were among the guests.

24th June - Peter Jones' tour of Surrey villages starting at Leigh.

9th July - Brighton Ring meeting. This followed the enjoyable traditional pattern of tour, massed dancing, feast, church and dancing. We had a team out on the Saturday but our camp site was so far back in Sussex we could not rejoin on Sunday. However

we had lunch stop dancing and finished the day with a mass visit to the Society's Brian Heaton at his Sussex Home.

13th July - As in previous years we showed the morris at one of the four Society's public open space dances at Marble Hill, Twickenham. The feature of this place is a lovely, small Palladian mansion recently beautifully restored.

16th July - Second rehearsal for the Ireland visit at Reading.

22nd July - An evening tour: Wisley, West End (Esher) and Walton.

29th July - Susan, Bill's daughter, was married to her Richard. The morris men attended and danced. Later in the day we had a tour, marred a little by rain, down to the Surrey villages including Brook and Hambledon. This last was one of our noisier occasions.

3rd August - Mention of an interesting failure - an after-midnight practice in the barn at Elm Farm, Claygate. This was intended to train some men going to Scotland but not enough attended.

9th August - St Albans tour. This was a little less enjoyable than usual as we were short of numbers, with consequential difficulties.

18th - 24th August - Scottish tour. Members of this party gathered from all over. Many of them drove to Doncaster to spend the night with Bert Cleaver's family. Next day everyone assembled at Ardvorlich on the south shore of Loch Earn. The weather was the best Scotland had had for years and remained so for a week. Thames Valley were joined by Bert himself, a Greensleeves man and a Ravensbourne man and friends. The camp site was idyllic. We climbed and swam and danced and drank. On Sunday we drove to Balluchulich. This was tourism, not morris. On Monday we toured - Callendar, Dunblane, Crieff and so on. On Tuesday we drove to Aberdeen, dancing with enormous success at Kirriemuir. Kirriemuir is a working town, no tourists. The townsfolk thronged the town Square, most happily for us. For themselves, too, I hope. The route, new to us all, over Cairn a Mount was magnificent. In Aberdeen some camped and some found most comfortable quarters among new friends. On Wednesday we danced on the promenade, in pubs and we swam in the sea. In the afternoon we put on a full dress show in the arena in the city's central park. We managed to fill our own vast space adequately but did not have enough help to collect from the big but widely spaced crowd. During the evening we danced at some of Aberdeen's dining-out places. The writer takes a certain pleasure in being shown out of an extremely plush dining room - the head waiter said 'yes': the manager said 'no.' Later still, morrissing a little perfunctorily at a smart pub we were invited to take part in the cabaret. Bert's playing was inspired, the rapper was terrific. We stopped the show but were too exhausted to give an encore! Next day we toured back to Ardvorlich and on Saturday parted to go our very distant ways. The bag, not the most important feature but welcome, amounted to £63.

26th August- 2nd September - The Society's Irish trip led by Peter Dashwood, formerly of TVMM, and attended also by the writer. The party consisted of 9 men and 9 women who flew by several routes to Dublin. Here three cars were collected and

used to transport the party all week. We drove straight to Carraroe, 30 miles west of Galway. We were quartered in a most interesting pub/hotel in the Gaeltacht. It is the custom here to have a howli (is it? anyway, party and stage show) every evening. We took our part nightly. For this reason we stayed in Carraroe although the intention had been to tour. We arranged a show of country dancing, morris and rapper, with folk singing for indoors and toured daily variously to Salthill, Galway, Clifden and other places. On one day we had a fishing boat, skippered by one of our local dancing friends, take us a day trip to the Arran islands - glorious. After the evening party on Friday we drove through the night to Dublin for the flight home. The Guinness flowed in a turgid flood all week.

16th September - Through the Society we accepted an engagement to dance at a military dinner and dance in London's West End. This we did but found the volume of sound from our single concertina inadequate in a large and noisy assembly. Also, a moment before use, a handle broke off one of our five (only) rappers. We coped.

4th October - We had a special Oddington rehearsal in Jim's basement.

6th October - We morrised at a harvest supper in Shepperton.

13th October - We had a full team at Roy Dommett's Halsway weekend. We helped him teach Oddington. We performed adequately but it was a triumph for Jim Brooks. Not only was he able to teach - as he does us - but he went on to demonstrate a dance and, notably, an Oddington jig that Roy, who noted it, had forgotten all about. Apart from this, the weekend followed its usual enjoyable even hilarious course.

25th November - We morrised at a part for disabled people at Isleworth. The writer found the contrast between the men's happy vigour and the injuries of our friends very poignant.

1st December - The Thames Valley Morris Boys practised in Jim's basement in order to polish their performance ready for Boxing Day.

26th December - Boxing Day. Fine, warm, very well attended with Bert to help with music and four members of Greensleeves to add to the good company. The Boys did their Bean Setting and Beaux Adderbury: their No. 1, Peter Rowe, dancing Shepherd's Hey. One was deafened by the whirring of cine cameras and the clicking of shutters, notably those of Eric Wadsworth of the Guardian. As a result of this we had national coverage (as they say) the next day. (It is true that two of the Boys are the sons of the London Editor.) The crowds this year were as big as ever, the bag as satisfactory and the morris enjoyable.

27th December - ITV phoned to invite the Boys to morris in an afternoon programme early in the New Year. The invitation was refused, it being felt the Boys were not yet ready for quite so searching a test. ITV was referred to Tony Pegram and his Heston Boys. These accepted the invitation and duly performed about ten days later with complete success, Tony having cleverly choreographed several dances into 2 mins 45 secs. Later the Heston Boys wrote to TV Boys with thanks, good wishes and £5, a part of the fee paid them.

31st December - John, his wife and the writer drove yet again to Ballachulich for Hogmanay and snow mountains. This splendid expedition is mentioned here because once more TVMM took the English morris to Lochaber.

On one of the first Friday evenings in the New Year, 18 men attended practice including half a dozen new ones. The Boys had practised earlier. There were, therefore, 26 morris dancers in Claygate that night.

Several members of TVMM are related to one another in various ways. John's son, Digger, is the bagman and two of the writer's grandsons dance with the Boys. There is also a son-in-law and a pair of brothers-in-law. How many generations does a club need to qualify as a traditional side?

### **Thames Valley Morris Men.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 10th November 1967.**

1. The minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising therefrom could not be dealt with owing to the illness of the Bagman, Hugh Gibson.
2. The same remark applies Correspondence.
3. Treasurer's Report - The Bag stands at £56.12.1. Last year it was £34. Collections amounted to £135 and fees £48. Including the £60 on the Scottish tour the turnover during the year was £300. This report was received with many thanks to Francis Smith for its preparation. It was resolved to give £10 to the EFDSS.
4. Squire's Report. Siward's thanks were expressed to various club members. He spoke of the efforts to bring the younger dancers into prominence and the Club's difficulties with music. He mentioned the necessity to renew our costume. He urged us to repeat our very successful Scottish tour. The last two points were discussed: a change of costume was not welcomed. Members thanked Siward for the way he carried out his duties as Squire.
5. Election of Officers - Siward was unanimously re-elected Squire. Francis was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. Hugh wrote to say he wished to stand down from being bagman. The club agreed to this reluctantly. Martin (Digger) Glaister was elected Bagman.
6. Planning - A few dates were considered - 25th November Wlendy Brooks' party; Thames Ditton 19th December; Ladies Pleasure 12th January 1968; a dinner at Worcester Park 20th January; an engagement at Cuddington and the play, Knight of the Burning Pestle, in July. It was decided to call a programme planning meeting early in the New Year.

The meeting closed 10.10pm

(Signed) S.R.Glaister.

## **1968 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

1st January - As mentioned last year, the morris was shown in Ballachulich, albeit minimally, by John Glaister and Cyril Smith.

12th January - Ladies Pleasure took a new and most successful form. -We supped and drank and danced with our ladies in the fairly plush Ship Hotel -at Shepperton.

19th January - At the practice on this date we welcomed six newcomers. Mel Dean called in from the Foley Arms only because he heard folk music: he being a singer.

20th January - We attended in strength and with ladies the very enjoyable 21st birthday part of Richard Perry near his home at Ashford, Mx. There was a good deal of morris.

16th February - We morrised at the Festival weekend ceilidh at C.S.House. If Jim Barclay did not dance 'Baccy Pipes' he should have done: memory is treacherous.

17th February - Reps meeting.

16th March - We enjoyed very much London Pride M.M's Ale somewhere in Earls Court. Additionally it was valuable experience for a couple of our new young men.

21st March - We were the floor show at a Masonic dinner at a Worcester Park hotel. Surely our mystery must be more fun than theirs.

22nd March - At the folk weekend at Crowlink, Sussex, a study was made of morris and rapper and can therefore be mentioned here.

30th March - We were represented at the instructional (sword) meeting at C.S.House. Bill Tofts completed a cowp on his face with no visible bad effects.

13th April - We joined the Walton Phoenix Folk Club in showing folk dancing to a big party of French visitors at the Civic Hall, Weybridge.

19th April - At the D.S.A.F. Depot at Ruislip they have, understandably, a very active square dance club. We were their guests and showed them the morris.

20th April - John Compton organised a very successful tour, Fairly locally, starting at the Old Surbitonians Sports Club.

26th April - Our first practice in a barn at Elm Farm, Clay gate. This continued through the summer for both boys and men.

27th April - Following our new practice, we've moved back Hock Tide from the second Tuesday after Easter to a convenient Saturday. So we danced again all the afternoon at Kingston Parish church, helped wonderfully by Tony Pegram and his Heston Boys. Come opening time, we danced at the New Inn, Ham.

4th May - We morrised at Holloway College, Englefield Green.

10th May - We tried out the idea of a practice at a pub - in this case the Ashley Arms, Hersham - with fair success. The weather was no help.

11th May - An afternoon tour - Worcester Park, New Malden, a squash club at Ashstead - made less enjoyable by the rain of this wet weekend.

18th May. - An evening session at our old .haunt, the Kings Head, Shepperton.

25th May - Hughie's tour, starting at the Jolly Farmer, Staines, going on to a school fete at Addlestone and finishing in the splendid 15th century barn at Hardwick farm, Lynne, where a ceilidh was in progress.

1st June - For the second time we played our part over the weekend at the Wirkworth Well Dressing ceremonies. We attended the services, inspected the wells, watched the processions and morrised throughout. Jim Brooks and the writer had a splendid Sunday driving and walking in the Derbyshire hills.

14th June - A very enjoyable pub practice at the Sportsman, Mogador - an attractive spot.

23rd June - Christopher Penton came back into the side for a day's trip to a party in a girls' school near Bath - where we morrised, country danced, eat and enjoyed the company of the girls. Outwards at lunchtime we had a very successful morris at Marlborough and, returning, we had two stops at Melksham and Leacock.

29th June - The very successful Dorset tour. Don Byfleet was our host: we camped in his garden. We spent Saturday on Portland, morrissing and sight seeing. We had several pub stops in the evening, the last one pretty uproarious, of course. On Sunday we morrised in glorious weather at Lulworth Cove, Corfe and Kingston Matravers. The afternoon we spent .bathing at Chapman's Pool, returning home in the evening.

6th July - We joined (the other) Phoenix Club at their annual Trafalgar Square dancing. We morrised and rapped and felt very caught up with the excitement of the occasion.

11th July - Yet again we showed morris at the last of a series of open air country dances, called by Brian .Heaton, arranged ay the Society for Richmond Council in the Marble Hill grounds.

13th July - An extremely strenuous tour starting in the Addlestone shopping precinct, going to our home from home, the Black Swan, Martyrs Green, on to a very big fete at Leatherhead (where the soft turf and prolonged programme nearly killed us) and so to the Blacksmiths Head, New Chapel, to dance and listen to, among others, the folk singer, Scan Tester.

27th July - Francis' tour - first to a school fete at Leatherhead and then to Holmbury St. Mary flower show. The side was small but Francis, in a new job, did extremely well at leading and calling.

10th August - Another wonderfully successful Scottish tour. We gathered, as last year, on the slopes of Ben Vorlich, the property of Major Stewart. The camp site this time was even lovelier than that of last year - 100 feet up with a magnificent view across Loch Earn. The weather was perfect all the week. With women and children we were very much a family party. We combined touring with the morris - to our own enjoyment, to that of onlookers and to the benefit of the bag. We scored a great singing success in a late night session at the Lochleven Hotel. A party traversed the Devil's Staircase from Glencoe to Kinlochleven. Peter Rowe, number one of the Thames Valley Morris Boys, danced his Shepherd's Hey jig dozens of times! We had a notable ceremonial dinner at the Lochearnhead Hotel. At the end of a perfect week we dispersed, some home, some elsewhere in the Highlands and a big party over to Skye for a week. In Skye, most unfortunately, John Glaister broke a bone in his leg. Before he could dance again he played his melodeon more and more. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

7th September - Norman and Jim Brooks danced some jigs at a barbecue in Surbiton.

20th September - Bagman Digger had his pre-nuptial party in Weybridge: mostly morris men.

21st September - Digger married his Pamela. A lovely wedding and party, the morris men assisted.

4th October - Halsway Manor weekend again. This followed its normal very enjoyable course. The writer was much struck by the 'workshop.' Four groups composed, rehearsed and performed in about an hour four perfectly acceptable morris dances on given themes. This implies, surely, quick wits, technical knowledge, dancing and musical skill and very thorough absorption in the spirit of morris dancing.

30th October - We morrised at a church social gathering in Balham - very rewarding.

1st November - We shared a New Haw congregation's harvest thanksgiving supper and then danced for it.

2nd November - Peter Jones' sister held a coming home party in Croydon. We attended and danced and sang. Midway through the evening we broke off to morris at a country dance where the caller was our Jim Barclay.

29th November. - A.G.M.

26th December - Boxing Day in Claygate again. Glorious sunny day, good crowds and satisfactory bag - handsomely augmented by a gift from Christopher Penton, who attended but did not dance. We had no visiting dancers this year although Bob Bradbury of Wessex turned up in mufti and helped collect. About 14 men turned out and eight boys. A bystander remarked that the boys now dance more confidently. Could it be they are catching something of the apparently carefree approach to the morris of their mildly hell raking elders?

The club is very strong once more - numbering about 20, average attendance at practice 16. While the veterans have nothing wrong with them at all except a certain difficulty in raising one foot above the other, the young men including two musicians are coming on apace. Behind them come the boys - average practice attendance 8. Plans for 1969 are well advanced.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Claygate Village Hall, Claygate, on Friday 29th November 1968.**

1. Present - Siward, John and Digger Glaister, John Hall, Jim Barclay, Jim Brooks, Ron Duncombe, Norman Keam, John Compton, Bill Tofts, Mervyn Stanley, Francis Smith, Peter Jones, Rick Brightwell, David Dearsley, Bill Wakefield and Cyril Smith. Hugh Gibson wrote apologising for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.
3. Correspondence was read and noted - particularly Ring circulars.
4. Treasurer's Report was given by Francis. The report was accepted with thanks to Francis. £70.7.2 in hand and a yearly turnover of about £240.
5. Club Report - as set out in the Log - was taken as read.
6. Squire's Report - Siward spoke of the slightly disappointing speed with which the men are taking over the dancing from the old men and looks to an acceleration and an approach to our former wide repertory. He mentioned with regret two missed engagements and non-attendance at a Ring meeting during the year. He suggested we needed colourful posters - also as we did formerly. He spoke of the pleasure in noting how newly joined men soon overcame difficulties in relationship with the old and now fully shared the club's special spirit. The men accepted the Squire's report and expressed gratitude and appreciation of his leadership.
7. Elections - Siward, Digger and Francis were re-elected Squire, Bagman and Treasurer. A new office was created, described as tour manager and Cyril Smith elected to fill it.
8. Any other business - It was resolved to seek the nomination to Squire of the Ring for Jim Barclay.

Practices at Elm Farm have come to an end and arrangements must be made to return to the Foley Arms Hall. It was decided to make a payment of £3 to the farmer, Tim Jones, in respect of light and heat.

Preliminary plans were made for Boxing Day, Ladies Pleasure 15th January, C.S. House Day in March, Hock Tide in Kingston, an Ale in April, possibly Peasmarsh with East Surrey in May, Hammersmith Day in May, Stratford Ring meeting, Merrist Wood in July, Leatherhead and Reigate in September. A further planning session was planned for 13th December.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

(Signed) S.R. Glaister.

### **1969 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

On an evening, either 15th January or 12th March, the club were invited to show the morris to a party for foreign visitors to Cecil Sharp House. The occasion was successful and enjoyable but which of the two dates it was escapes the collective memory of club members: perhaps they do not allow themselves sufficient tranquility in which to recollect.

19th January - Many members and their ladies attended a party at Digger's home in Cove to see many pictures and films of their activities.

31st January - Ladies Pleasure took the same form as the previous year and was also held at the Ship, Shepperton. There was eating and drinking and dancing and good fellowship and a couple of jigs - one from Bill Tofts because it was his wedding anniversary and one from Cyril Smith, it being the day after his 65th birthday.

1st February - Yet again we enjoyed the Ale of our Winchester friends.

15th February - Siward and Cyril Smith attended the reps. meeting at C.S.House. Bill Tofts and Norman danced with the District at the Albert Hall Festival where, also, Jim Barclay and Ted Dowling were among the Sunday club dancers.

22nd February - The Thames Valley Morris Boys showed the morris at a church party in Kingston to a very appreciative audience. John played.

12th March - See above.

16th March - Morris at a dance party at Guildford.

18th March - The Walton and Weybridge Arts Festival. Among demonstrations of several forms of dancing and other physical activity, we showed the morris.

20th March - We had accepted an engagement to show the morris at a big Catholic church party at Redhill. We mustered only five dancers and a musician. We felt sheepish about this but our hosts were kind and said they enjoyed all the jigs and half-dances.

22nd March - Instructional meeting at the House. We were not strongly represented. The study was of the Lichfield.

21 - 23 March EFDSS District Crowlink weekend. Cyril Smith instructed in morris.

29th March - We showed the morris at a party to disabled people given by Hawkers of Kingston. The morris was enjoyed by all but the sad irony was not lost on the men.

18th April - We held our Ale in the ancient Market House in Kingston. Together with our own members the morris men numbered around 60. Our visitors came from Greensleeves, Winchester, St Albans, Wantsum, East Surrey, London Pride, and other clubs. We would claim it was a great success.

19th April - Hocktide. at Kingston Parish church. We danced enjoyably all afternoon and were watched by all Kingston's shoppers and earned thereby a very satisfactory bag - which went to continue repaying the debt to the church by the morris men of 400 years ago.

1st May - We showed the morris to Claygate Townswomens Guild. This had a special flavour because they felt proprietorial towards the club. They also laid on beer of the right kind and in the right quantity.

2nd May - We showed the morris at the Pyrford Spring Fling. Several of the men attend these dances regularly.

3rd May - We attended a dinner of the Addlestone Community Centre and, for our supper, so to speak, danced and rapped.

4th May - Accepting a long standing invitation, we attended morning service at Oatlands Parish church (Bill's church). The staff was placed on the altar, the men danced in the chancel and the vicar made several interesting and apt references to the morris in his sermon, Later we had a tour and visited several village pubs in mid-Surrey in the evening - Ockham, Holmbury et al.

10th May - An extraordinary occasion. It teemed with rain. Only Jim Brooks and Cyril Smith represented us and therefore did not dance till the lunch time mass dancing. They did, however, get involved with the fire at Westminster Hospital and an elaborate 'nosh' at the Pavours Arms. Bill Tofts joined for the afternoon. A heavy public relations job followed with some charming girls and an invitation to make up numbers with the Standon Men. In the evening TVMM were engaged to morris at the plushy dinner at the Chatham hotel. Our numbers were short now and so we posted off to where our Standon friends were dancing and pressed them to join us. They agreed to do so, the more easily because of the drink taken. Together we put on a successful show and we are grateful to Standon. Later still in the evening, some of the TVMM were happy to help a lady loo attendant to repair a roller towel machine. They had no idea towels were so long. Hilarious.

24th May - This was the East Surrey Peasmarsh weekend. Some of our men went for the whole time, camping with their hosts. Some of us went down for the day on Saturday. We enjoyed the tour especially that part over Romney Marsh. We admired much of the morris we saw and were glad to have our apprentices join in.

6th June - After the evening practice, we went to the garden of a friend of Bill Toft's to dance at a barbecue.

31st May - We had a side at the Hammersmith Day. The day followed its usual enjoyable pattern as also did the Ale at London Rowing Club in the evening.

1st June - The Southdown Traverse - a walk from Firle Beacon to Eastbourne. No morris but all Thames Valley Morris Men.

7th June - We carried out engagements at Ewell and Twickenham before going on to morris at the party in the splendid Hardwick Barn at Lyne.

14th June - This was our Dorset weekend. As before, we camped in Don Byfleet's garden and were provided with a wonderful meal late Saturday night. We toured Portland and later other Dorset villages. On Sunday we danced at Lulworth and Corfe and, in the afternoon, swam at Chapman's Pool. As always we had an hilarious drive home with suitable stops.

27 - 29 June - Stratford Ring meeting. Some of us joined the tour at a first stop at Leamington and enjoyed the morris there and thereafter. Feast, camp site and massed dancing in Glanville Gardens were all splendid and provided valuable experience for our young men. On the way home we had an encounter with a man claiming knowledge of the morris before the big revival and mentioned Cut the Barley from Blackwell. We meant to follow this lead but found ourselves too busy to do so.

During July some of us met for extra practices to learn Whinlton rapper ready for our Irish tour.

10th July - We showed the morris at the Marble Hill, Twickenham, public country dance, where Jim Barclay was the caller.

12th July - Yet again we took part in the big Elizabethan Fair at Leatherhead. Afterwards, underestimating the time necessary to reach Merrist Wood for a show, we were very late and in bad odour with the institute there. However, the morris soon put us back in good books and won us an invitation to come again. Bevis Colmer, a founder member, joined us - glad to assuage morris starvation. He lives nearby.

24th July - Memory returns as one writes. It was on this day we showed the morris to foreign students at Cecil Sharp House, not on either of the two dates mentioned earlier. Memory still fails in regard to the reason for going to the House in January and March.

28th July - Starting with a fete in Leigh we had a most successful tour through villages with which we are very familiar – Shere, Horsley (where we met young Mr Curwen, son of the publisher of early morris music) and Martyrs Green.

2nd August - We were engaged by the firm, Birds Eye, to dance at a Pea Pushing contest at Walton. This lavishly promoted commercial affair with an attendance of hundreds turned out to be deadly dull. Our small contribution was, we were told, the only flicker of excitement in the whole thing.

16 - 22 August - The tour to Co. Cork, Eire. By chance we had got into touch with Kanturk Development Association. It is hardly too much to say that this took us out of this world - this world being suburban Surrey. Twenty nine of us including small children, in eleven cars crossed by the new route Swansea to Cork and so on to Kanturk (Ceann Tearc, roughly: the hill of the wild boar). Here we were received into a community with a tremendous spirit of place and one who never saw tourists. They gave us the free use of the town park, its river, two empty houses, a camp site and the town lavatory. They gave us two parties, attended by Irish dancers who had just returned from a tour of Brittany, a hurling match (organised mayhem), a cake with

maps of Surrey and Kanturk on it three feet square, the sight of eels being fished for with 3-ton trucks, ordinary angling and all the new laid eggs in Cork and North Kerry. We toured with the morris and rapper around the neighbourhood including Killarney and Bantry Bay. We met unfailing friendliness and appreciation of the dancing. We were always referred to as 'our overseas visitors,' never as 'the English dancers.' There was a town meeting one night in support of the Catholics in Ulster but never a word did we hear of it. We morrised all over the town on Saturday morning and at the convent (where Ted chatted up the prettiest nun I have seen). Then the party broke up, some to return to this country and some to continue their Irish holiday on the Dingle peninsula.

6th September - We spent a practice evening at the specially attractive pub, the Sportsman, Mogador.

13th September - Having carried out an engagement at a scouts fete at Shepperton, four of us posted off to Sandwich and the ale of our friends, the Want sum Men. Most enjoyable.

27th September - We had a full side at the St Albans Day, dancing at places we recalled from previous years with the same amount of enjoyment. Around teatime, half of us left and were replaced by the same number of men who came for the evening and the feast.

4th October - The shopkeepers of a busy street in Walton had arranged to close their street to traffic for the whole day and the pubs to have a day-long licence and to hold in it a Goose Fair. We assisted. Satisfaction all round.

28th October - It is worth recording that one of the men achieved the incredible feat of sleeping in the middle of practice night!

14th November - A.G.M.

16th October - A party of about fourteen spent a weekend in Snowdonia, climbing Moel Siabod and the Snowdon Horseshoe. All the men were morris men and were accompanied by several wives - respective wives, not harems. There was no morris but a good deal of folk singing.

18th November - We morrised and danced at a meeting of Surrey school teachers at Tolworth.

22nd November - Peter Jones arranged a day long tour - Woking, New Haw, Byfleet, Wisley and Walton - the bag to go as a gift to our friends in Kanturk. This was a great success. The weather was warm and sunny and the bag substantial. In the evening we morrised and rapped at Chertsey Hockey Club dance.

26th December - Claygate Boxing Day. This followed the usual pattern - and how can it be improved? The crowds were even bigger and more enthusiastic than ever with the natural consequence to the bag. Greensleeves came as a side: there were no other dancing visitors. The Boys and the Horse rode in triumph round the village in a Land Rover. Siward danced himself out of office as Squire and the new Squire danced

himself in. The new Foreman also danced a very neat jig. Asked if he enjoyed the day, the Boys No. 1 said: "It was all right. Not enough dancing. Claygate seems to have come to a new awareness of its morris and press us to dance at the Flower Show.

The club is strong. Numbering 20, the average at practice is about 15. The 9 Boys turn up regularly. Oddly, counting both sections, the age span is 55 years - the youngest Boy being 9.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate on Friday 14th November 1969.**

Present - Siward, John and Digger Glaister, Peter Jones, Norman Keam, Bill Tofts, Jim Brooks, Jim Barclay, Ron Duncombe, Francis and Cyril Smith, David Dearsley, Bill Wakefield, Ron Horsley, Hugh Gibson and Ted Dowling. Also Dick Musson, his membership of Hammersmith soon to end on his moving to this district.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

2. Correspondence - including Ring circulars - were read and noted.

3. Treasurer's Report - was given by Francis. The report was accepted, with warm thanks for its preparation. There is £53 in hand and the yearly turnover was £320. It was resolved to donate £10 to the EFDSS.

A sincere vote of thanks to Norman for all he did in regard to the summer Irish tour: he arranged all passages for the party of about 30 and handled all the money throughout - a sum in excess of £250.

7. The Log - read in shortened form - was accepted as the Club Report.

8. Squire's Report - Siward spoke of a busy and enjoyable year, how there was some small confusion in management occasionally and sometimes a worry as to strength of turnout. He spoke of continued happy relationships and thanked club members for supporting him. His report was accepted warmly and thanks expressed for his leadership.

6. Elections - Cyril Smith was elected Squire, with all the traditional responsibilities. Peter Jones was elected Foreman, with special responsibility in regard to dancing style. Digger and Francis were re-elected Bagman and Treasurer. The job allotted to Cyril Smith last year was to be allowed to lapse.

7. Under Any Other Business - it was resolved to inquire the cost of black knee breeches and, possibly, to make them part of the club costume on Occasion.

8. Planning - Preliminary plans were adopted to arrange a 'Little Halsway' in Claygate and invite a well known morris man to direct it; to hold a Ladies Pleasure in the spring and invite our Weymouth friends, the Byfleets, to it; to attend the Thaxted and Exeter Ring meetings; to have a Dorset tour in the second week in June; to have David plan a Cotswold tour; to have the main morris holiday in the week 8 - 15 August, asking David to pursue his U.S.A. inquiries and, if these come to nothing, arrange a tour in the Border country or go back to Ardvorlich.

The meeting closed 2205.

(Signed) C.D.Smith.

## **LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men 1970.**

9th January - We morrised at a dance at Forest Row, Sussex, for the benefit of John's school, Tylehurst. The dance was a great success and many attenders were greatly interested in their first sight of morris.

12th January - We showed the morris and led country dancing for a Townswomen's Guild party at the invitation of Norman's wife.

23 - 25 January - Halsway yet again with Roy Dommett. It was the usual useful, enjoyable and occasionally hilarious occasion.

29th January - successful show for a club at Godstone.

31st January - As always we enjoyed attending Winchester Ale.

7th February - We country danced and morrised at a youth club at Englefield Green.

14th February - We morrised and led country dancing at a scout function at Tolworth.

21st February - Jim Brooks and C.D.S. attended the reps. meeting at C.S.House.

28th February - We enjoyed the East Surrey Men's Ale. It was, in fact, a party. On the same evening the Thames Valley Morris Boys took a successful part in a concert in Kingston.

3rd March - Surrey University (Guildford) had a weeklong arts festival. On one evening a Pageant was performed. We gave two morris shows during that evening.

7th March. - We were guests at John Compton's house warming.

13th March - John Hall's stag party at Worcester Park. The second part of the proceedings, a visit to a night club, was, amusingly, Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.

19th March - Claygate country dance group birthday dance had Jim Brooks and Norman dancing jigs.

21<sup>st</sup> March - Jim Brooks and C.D.S. attended the instruction meeting at C.S.House while the rest of the men danced the morris at John Hall's wedding.

3<sup>rd</sup> April -We morrised and rapped at an Anglo-Scottish dance at Wimbledon. The Scots were duly impressed.

4<sup>th</sup> April - Friends of the Priest's House, a very ancient building at West Hoathly, had a feast where costumes, customs and clothes and every item of food were of the period of the 15th century house. We were guests and performed our version of the

mummer play. Later we got to pretty boisterous dancing. We did not much like venison soup or the lack of salt!

11th April HOCKTIDE - Having morrised in Kingston parish churchyard all afternoon with our guests - we were honoured with the company of the Squire of the Ring, Bert Cleaver, also the Heston Boys and others - we moved to the Market House, Kingston, for our Ale. Members of several other clubs joined us for the evening and there was a great deal of morris and good companionship.

25th April - Digger's tour round the villages near the Hogs Back and later, all in Red Indian costume, to a party at Digger's home.

1st May - Spring Fling at Pyrford where we danced some morris, Don Byfleet and his Heather attended and then spent the weekend with us.

2nd May - A short tour to show Don and Heather our area and the Ladies' Pleasure at the Angel, Thames Ditton. A great success, we think.

3rd May - We morrised at the ceilidh at Guildford run by Mark Berry, formerly TVMM.

22 - 25 May - John Glaister attended as musician East Surrey's Peasmarsh weekend.

25th May - The squire attended the Kennet Men's country dance and morris tour. He was made very welcome and was very impressed with the big amount of dancing. He, being very unwell, left early.

6th June - After an afternoon tour we morrised yet again at the party held in the beautiful barn at Hardwick, Lyne.

12 - 14 June - Dorset tour. We greatly enjoyed Don's hospitality and visited old haunts. The party at the Luggar Inn was again hilarious (that word again!). We left promptly after lunch on Sunday and kept an engagement at Tolworth at a barbecue at the house of Jewish friends. We morrised and led general dancing. We had a mild feeling of the meeting of two cultures here. The old joke is a poor one: our fee was doubled.

19th June - Christopher Penton held his St John the Baptist's Eve party. Some morris wives helped him. We morrised and were so glad Christopher joined us in this. We performed the mummings play and added long sword dancing. (A few days earlier we had practised this long sword in Ron Duncombe's garden. This is mentioned here because there was more hilarity than usual, an almost extravagant claim because the risibility threshold seems pretty low among TVMM. This is due to morris-enjoyment, not lack of brains or over fondness for strong liquor). The party in Christopher's garden took back the minds of the older men to the many happy hours we had spent there, with his wife Nancy and with Dommett, studying recently-researched morris, notably Oddington.

20th June - We danced at Joan Glaister's school and for Hersham Girl Guides. In between we had a tour and a glorious strawberry tea at Jenny Glaister's home.

26th June - From this date the village of Forest Row held a weeklong festival. We contributed morris from time to time. Some of us attended the church service and, with several other clubs, had a feast whereat was some notable singing and storytelling. During the week, on 1st July, we showed the rapper at a ceildih. Brian Heaton played and it so happened the team were TV veterans, their combined ages totalling around 300 years.

4th July - We kept an engagement at a fete at Burpham near Guildford and then, unusually, went our ways without more morris.

10 - 12 July - the very enjoyable Exeter Ring meeting. The organisers, kindly, let us make our own camping arrangements at a camp site most gloriously situated outside the city at the home of David's aunt. Our former clubmate Chris Ridley joined us for the weekend. We were on the city centre tour and greatly enjoyed the absence of the need to travel. We enjoyed, too, the feast and general dancing. We also had one of our merrier lunch stops before returning home.

15th July - We kept an engagement to dance at Byfleet Parish Day but had a very bad moment. Five men and musician performed jigs before Dick Musson emerged from the crowd at, not the eleventh hour but the twelfth.

17th July - We morrised at Jill Jones hockey club barbecue at Walton and led some dancing.

18th July - After an afternoon tour around our neighbourhood including the Walton shopping precinct - that morris gold mine - we finished at an Oxshott barbecue. The press photo caption of this described David as the chef and later had to correct this characteristic piece of journalistic nonsense.

20th July - We attended at Woking and, and as it turned out, ran a little party for a club for mentally handicapped people run by Francis' Margaret. This occasion we found both enjoyable and oddly moving.

8th August week - Morris holiday in Roxburghshire, camping at Attonburn. These holidays are always remarkable. The campsite was a fine one in a valley three miles from Town Yetholm. There were about 30 of us including youngsters. Every tour was successful and included Selkirk, Jedburgh, Sea Houses, Wooller and places round about. The stop at Bamburgh with the castle as backdrop comes back to mind. We visited Holy Island and some of us boated to the Farne Islands. Rothbury and Kelso we liked specially well and returned there. We drove to Wallington, the home of the Trevillians, where we morrised and later, at tea, had Jack Armstrong play the Northumbrian pipes for us. On the off day a big party of us traversed the last seven miles of the Penine Way starting at the Hen Hole, where John bathed. These hills are magnificent, as was the weather. Route finding was a little less good. On the Saturday our fellow-villagers-of-a-week had a festival. We joined in with morris. Then we had our traditional dinner party at the hotel. After this we attended the village dance and, by golly, what a dance! We played our full part in this extremely rowdy affair. Later as guests of the licencee we had a party behind drawn curtains far into the night. And what a night! The Storm rose just as we returned to the tents. The tempest raged all

the (rest of) the night. It finally blew to shreds the Squire's tent. Other tents were damaged and all gear was soaked. Several of us flung our belongings into cars and, negotiating a ten foot wide torrent that had been all week a negligible trickle, departed for home. The Squire, for one, had no clothes to wear till some garments dried out well down the M1! Malcolm, who had arranged to be in a condition not to notice discomfort, was seen to emerge at 11am and empty his sleeping bag of water. Some of the party stayed on a day or two but the Storm brought morris holiday 1970 to a spectacular end.

23rd August - Christening party for Roy Dommett's seventh child. This was a notable family and morris occasion. Morris men came from far and wide. Roy led a morris during the service. Later there was morris and a splendid luncheon and more dancing. Few babies have such a start and so many wellwishers.

28th August weekend - Cotswold tour. This covered an area round Withington to the south of the district and was a great success – dancing, camp site, weather and liquor all being of the best.

5th September - Long Ditton tour. We met at the Swan, Thames Ditton. This attractive and historic Thames side pub has been a failure for us hitherto but now has a new landlord and a new car park. We were made welcome and the local press attended. We danced twice at the fete of the church Jim Brooks attends. We then went to Jim's to tea and looked through his very full scrapbooks. Then on to a dance at Feltham arranged by Jim Perry.

26th September - Kathleen and Jim Brooks were invited to Joan and John Glaister's home to meet Amy Knight an old friend of pre-1939 days at the Curfew morris meetings. Some of TV men were members of Curfew in those far off days.

9 - 11 October - Halsway - as usual. We had a team attend this last weekend which will, no doubt, be followed by a new first one.

17 - 19 October - Crowlink EFDSS weekend. The Squire instructed in morris and so this can be mentioned here.

7 November - We were this year's morris side at the Chiddingfold Bonfire. This is a tremendous affair - hundreds of people holding flaming torches in procession to a bonfire about fifty feet high. Our morris, as a side show, was very warmly received.

5th December - We attended a day of morris run by Roy Dommett near Brentwood, Essex. We enjoyed a very close look at the Bampton tradition.

26th December - Boxing Day this year was notable for the appalling weather. We danced in a snow blizzard at the Swan and had to clear six inches of snow from each pitch. The Boys got a good deal of dancing: their elders feeling a certain reluctance to leave cosy bars. The crowds were smaller but not that small and the bag almost its usual size. This surely proves the morris is very acceptable in this neighbourhood.

1970 was a good year - although it cannot be said there was ever a bad one. There have been a whole stream of young men attending practices. Some attended more

regularly than others and only some of them stay on to become full members of the side. However the nett result is a steady gain in numbers and there are usually around eighteen of us practising on Friday evenings. The nine Boys practise keenly week after week and turn out when possible.

### **Thames Valley Morris Men.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 13th November 1970.**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.
  2. Matters arising - The failure to arrange a 'Little Halsway' was mentioned.
  3. Correspondence - Ring circulars were read. Letters suggesting morris dates were put back to be dealt with under 'planning.'
  4. Treasurer's Report - Given by Francis. Cash in hand had risen from £53 to £76 over the year. The turnover was £360. Francis' report was accepted and he was warmly thanked for his excellent handling of the club's cash.
  11. Club Report - The Log was regarded as the year's report and extracts from it were read.
  12. Squire's Report - given by C.D.Smith, described the year as a good one with plenty of morris and an improvement in time keeping. Every man had done well in doing all he had undertaken. The Squire spoke of the spirit of the morris (whatever it is?), how much our club shares in it, how it produced a style of dancing and, further, if that style lacks polish, we must continue to polish it. The Squire pointed to an extremely busy future: new members to help, mummers play to be developed and the 'orchestnagraphic' to be studied. (This last was taught by Julian Filling at Halsway and TVMM were much taken by it.) The Squire wondered whether we should be forced to divide functions - the old to coach the new and the 'middle' to concentrate on good performance.
  7. Elections - the arrangement of officers of the club over the past year had worked well and C.D.Smith, Peter, Digger and Francis were re-elected Squire, Foreman, Bagman and Treasurer.
- Any Other Business - Materials for fitting out the new and replacing some of the old costumes is now available. The new hats, rather expensive, are, to the satisfaction of all members, almost exactly like the originals.
- It was resolved, Jim Brooks moving, that a gift be made to the EFDSS, the amount of money to be decided in the light of discussion at the annual reps. meeting next February.
- It was resolved, Norman moving, that a gift be made to the raffles at the EFDSS Christmas dance.

It was decided to send Christmas greetings to several friends of the Club;

It had been decided earlier to send a money gift and taped music to our friends in Kanturk, Eire. It was decided this must be delayed no longer.

Jim Brooks reminded members that we approach the 21st birthday of TVMM and urged that its celebration be thought about.

It was decided to depend on TV Men and Boys only on Boxing Day this year. Under Planning certain dates were fixed and a planning meeting called for 27th November. [The full list of dates is, therefore, given below.]

The meeting closed 2210.

(Signed} C.D.Smith.

## **LOG 1971 Thames Valley Morris Men.**

9th January - We morrised during a dance at Forest Row, held in aid funds for John's school.

17th January - We contributed morris to a very interesting ceilidh held in the Wooden Bridge Hotel, Guildford, where a former TV man, Mark Berry, is chairman.

20th January - C.D.S. attended the representatives of the Ring meeting at C.S.House.

26th February - This year's Ladies Pleasure was held in our usual practice room at the Foley, Claygate. As well as the feast we had country dancing but no morris.

6th March - We morrised at a display at the Addlestone Community Centre.

12th March - We danced a 'spot' at a licensed victuallers' dinner in a plush hotel in Weybridge; very lucrative.

On this same weekend C.D.S. instructed morris and rapper at the EFDSS District weekend course at Crowlink, Sussex.

27th March - Francis arranged a very interesting and, as it turned out, eventful tour down to London's East End. Starting at Clapham pub (where the crowd consisted of a man and a dog until opening time when it was reduced to the dog) we went to the Anchor, Southwark. We morrised several times here because we met a wedding party. Then on to Tower Hill where we took turns with other buskers including the man in chains. The evening stop was in the Prospect of Whitby, Wapping, where Francis and Mervyn were late having had their car stolen, recovered, helped police to catch the thieves, retrieved a melodeon but had to be resigned to losing part of the day's bag. After the Prospect, home.

9th April - Three TV-men, Francis, Mervyn and C.D.S. had the experience of a lifetime this weekend. Driving to Blair Athol, train to Aviemore, walking 9 miles to the top of the Lairig Dhru, camping on the pass at 3,000 feet (above the snow), walking 12 miles to the Falls of Tarf, camping, walking 15 miles to Blair Athol, picking up the car - and so home. This expedition by the TV Mountaineering Section would have been very difficult or impossible had not the weather been quite perfect.

17th April - Our friends in West Hoathly this year arranged their fest in the manner and costume of the 16th century. We morrised and led country dancing very successfully.

24th April - Hocktide followed our now traditional pattern - dancing in the precincts of Kingston Parish church with our Boys and the Heston Boys and then having our Ale with some guests at the Market House, Kingston.

1st May - We joined with the local EFDSS District in a tour locally - the shopping precincts at Walton and Molesey and Tolworth. This went very well. The country dancers had dances in the afternoon and evening. We danced at a wedding at Chertsey

of the daughter of a former member of TVMM in the afternoon and then carried out an engagement at Surbiton Assembly Rooms at a dance in aid of the N.L.B.I.

8th May - Digger's tour started at the Ship, Weybridge, on to Addlestone and then to Ottershaw. In the evening we reunited and danced at the Wheat sheaf, Esher.

4th June - Thaxted. Only four of us attended (although a full side had been aimed at). We spent the day pleasantly and one of us was able to help a little at the feast.

I

11th June - We morrised at a private garden party at Ottershaw.

12th June - We attended and morrised at the splendid Hardwick Barn annual dance.

18 - 20 June weekend - The Dorset tour followed its normal extremely enjoyable pattern. Don Byfleet and his Heather were the souls of hospitality. We danced at old haunts and new. The cream tea and dancing at Milton Abbas stand out in memory. We also morrised at the EFDSS District Festival at Sherborne. Sunday saw us at Corfe and Kingston Matravers. The weather was lovely and the beer plentiful.

3rd July - Billy Wakefield's tour started at Chertsey Bridge, went on to the Golden Grove, Lyne, and then to Chobham. We danced at a scout fete at Brookwood and again at Thorpe (where we were able to give Frank Muir a better idea of morris which he was to use later on in a television programme). Bill and his Linda gave us a wonderful tea. Thereafter we went on to the Crown, Shepperton - where we clued up the impresario, Ralph Reader.

9 - 11 July weekend - We attended West Somerset's mini-Ring meeting at Minehead. The tour of the Somerset Villages was splendid as were the two massed dances. The feast was equally good. We all attended church and morrised again on Sunday. TVMM were the camping guests of Brian Heaton in his field at Halsway very much to our taste.

31st July - 7th August - Morris holiday in Pembrokeshire. From the fine camp site at Brandy Brook we toured the county, notably St David's, and enjoyed the fine coast scenery. We were to have danced at a regatta at Solva but were rained off. The weather throughout the week was mixed. We had our usual dinner party at Solva. We danced at Fishguard and parted after a successful week.

28 - 30 August - Cotswold tour. We camp at Withington and keep to the southern, less visited parts of the area. The weather was rather poor but, as always, we danced and drank and laughed ourselves through the weekend. We also won a skittles match against local friends.

9th September - We visited several pubs around Cove, Digger's home, and later attended a Red Indian party at his house.

18th September - Peter's tour took us round familiar Surrey villages including Leigh and Winkworth. There was no bathing here because the Squire was absent attending the wedding of another morris man, Richard Perry. All were assembled later for evening dancing at Shere and Clandon.

4th October - We morrised and led some dancing at a Harvest Supper at Byfleet.

9 - 10 October - The mountaineering section out again with other friends. We most interestingly borrowed Siward's country cottage on a bend of the river Wye, Herefordshire. We walked the Brecon Beacons on the Saturday but very briefly because of delay by reason of being involved in a car smash at Llanthony. No one was hurt but Paul's car was damaged. We walked along the Wye before returning on Sunday.

15th October - A.G.M.

22 - 24 October - Halsway. It was planned to have a full side attend but several men were prevented from going. The instruction was as useful and the fun as furious as ever under our friend, Roy Dommett.

29th October - Crowlink again. More morris and rapper instruction.

6th November - We morrised again this year at the truly enormous bonfire and its celebrations at Chiddingfold.

11th November - Many of his morris friends attended and danced at David's wedding to his Kathy - a very happy occasion.

26th November - We made outline plans for 1972, notably in regard to a trip to the Mosel next July.

27<sup>th</sup> December - The Boxing Day morris in Claygate was, in many ways, the most successful we have had. The weather was bright and warm, the crowds big and generous. If Christopher Penton and Ron Horsley are included, we had 26 men out. If St John Stanley is counted we had nine boys as well. There was a great deal of morris. Peter Keam (Norman's son) Alan, Andrew, Christopher Evans and Stephen all danced their admission jigs as well as dancing their Winlatton rapper. The Boys added Flamborough to the programme. Peter Jones danced himself in as Squire and the old Squire tottered out. Our funds were increased by £48.

The club is now at its greatest strength - 24 active dancers. This means success but brings with it attendant difficulties in regard to instruction and polishing of dance style. The young men are very keen indeed. At the moment of writing all but two men have been fully kitted out.

Sadly Jim Brooks can no longer dance on account of his injured hip. He comes to practice, was out on Boxing Day and regularly every Wednesday instructs our own young men and the Heston Boys. Also at the present time Norman is 'resting' after serious hospital treatment, although he too joined us on Boxing Day.

Three TV Boys now attend the Men's practice, they having grown tall enough to do so.

A very good year.

Men out on Boxing Day - John G., Peter Jones, Peter Keam, Siward, Digger, Norman, Jim Brooks, Jim Barclay, David, David (of Bath Men), Johnny, Malcolm, Francis, Mervyn, Hugh, Steve, Andy, Chris, Dick (recently of TVMM now of Taunton Deane), Bill, Billy, Ron, C.D.S., Christopher Penton (non-dancer) and Ron Horsley (not a member but an occasional player). Eight TV Boys plus St John costumed non-dancer).

### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 15th October 1971.**

Present - Martin Glaister, Malcolm Snowdon, David Dearsley, Francis Smith, Johnny Hall, Siward Glaister, Hugh Gibson, Peter Jones, Nick Oliver, Alan Dean, Peter Keam, Stephen Ashcroft, Andy Melville, Christopher Evans, Ron Duncombe, Billy Wakefield, John Glaister, Bill Tofts, Cyril Smith.

Active members not present - Jim Brooks, Norman Keam, Keith Haynes, Jim Barclay, Mervyn Stanley.

1. Minutes - Minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.
2. Matters arising - Explanation was given of the method of helping the EFDSS and the Ring financially in 1971. An offer of payment had been made but not taken up.
3. Correspondence - The Ring circular was considered. No other correspondence.
4. Treasurer's Report - given fully by Francis. There has been a turnover of £380 and £85 is left in hand. The Report was accepted with thanks to Francis. It was resolved to give £5 to EFDSS and £5 to the Ring towards film and tape conversions.
5. Club Report - Parts of the Log was read and the whole was regarded as the report and taken as read.
6. Squire's Report - C.D.S. spoke briefly of the pleasure a good year's morris had given him, thanked his clubmates for very warm support and offered a mild criticism of our rather careless preliminary presentation of a dance occasionally. Peter, as foreman, added a few words and suggested several ways of polishing performance. He welcomed new members and remarked on their rapid progress.
7. Bill Tofts expressed thanks to the Squire and musicians and other, so to speak, executive members of the club. Many club members and others, such as the Heston Boys, had attended on Wednesdays at Jim Brooks' cellar and there received very valuable instruction. Siward also expressed thanks and congratulations to Peter for a piece of forethought on the occasion of our visit to Hazelbury.
8. Elections - In a ballot of three names (Peter, Francis and John Glaister) Peter was elected Squire. Digger was re-elected Bagman and Francis re-elected Treasurer. The job of tour organiser was revived and given to C.D.S.
9. Any Other Business - John G. urged for the coming year short afternoon and evening tours. Peter Keam deplored bad time keeping. Digger raised the matter of duplicating and circularising. Everyone thought the use of a fixture sheet to be signed by individuals should be used again. C.D.S. spoke of the lack of any support so far for the Guildford Town Show next September. John G. told of Pyrford New Year's party and received our support for it. He also mentioned a show at Forest Row on 29th January 1972.

All other plans were to be considered at a special meeting fixed for 26th November. The meeting closed 2215.

## **LOG 1972. Thames Valle~ Morris Men.**

31st December 1971. The men attended and danced the morris at the Pyrford New Year's Eve dance.

6th January 1972. The men danced some morris in Farnborough before going to a party in Digger's home.

8th January. The men showed the morris and helped entertain at a party for mentally handicapped arranged by Francis' wife Margaret held at Woking.

16th January. The men danced morris as items in a ceildih at the Wooden Bridge Hotel, Guildford.

29th January. At a dance run by John Glaister at Forest Row in aid of the funds of his school the men danced rapper and morris and took part in the country dancing.

During the Spring of this year C.D.Smith instructed boys in morris and boys and girls in the Abram Bush dance ready for their spring festivals - the schools were in Claygate and Surbiton. The Surbiton school later supplied the morris item in a work based on the Luttrell Psalter at the Surbiton Youth Music Festival.

16th February. We showed the morris as an item in the dancing after a Rotary dinner at Worcester Park. (Surbiton Rotary).

17th February. C.D.Smith gave an after-luncheon talk on the morris to the Kingston-on-Thames Rotary club.

11th March. We had our Ladies Pleasure in the Market House, Kingston-on-Thames. The food and drink, prepared by Digger's wife, was remarkably good.

In the same weekend Kingston District EFDSS had its weekend at Crowlink. Morris and sword instruction was given.

15th March. A talk on morris to Ashford (Mx) Townswomen's Guild was given by C.D.Smith.

13th April. At a firm's, dinner at Worcester Park - the firm employing three of our young men - we danced the morris as part of the after-dinner entertainment.

15th April. Hocktide dancing in Kingston Parish churchyard. The Heston Boys joined us. In the evening we had, as formerly, our Ale in the Market House, Kingston, and were joined by friends from other clubs.

23rd April. St George's Day. A folk service was held at Holy Trinity church, Claygate. The local country dancers processed in costume to the church. The morris men danced outside. Folk musicians provided the music for the service. A morris man read the lesson. The Rev. Adrian Carey, nephew of Clive Carey, Cecil Sharp's colleague, preached a special sermon Part of his theme was the work of Vaughan

Williams: it is V.W's centenary year. After the service the company watched the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance on its way to the ceilidh in the church hall.

29th April. We had a day tour based on Addlestone and tea at Billy Wakefield's home.

1st May. Claygate Primary School had a May Day festival where the boys danced the morris to music by a group of girls playing recorders. Boys and girls danced the Abram Bush Dance.

5th May. Morris at Pyrford's Spring Fling.

15th May. We had a tour including Virginia Water and Englefield Green.

27th May. We joined a number of other clubs to dance at the notable Hereford Cider Festival at Hereford. We gave a number of shows where Chipping Campden were, perhaps, the most interesting team. The weekend was the more enjoyable because we were the guests of Siward and his Jenny at their cottage on the banks of the Wye at Fownhope.

9th June. We showed the morris at a dance and barbeque - where one of the men called - at Walton-on-Thames.

10th June. Morris at a scouts fete at Hook.

13th June. Norman's funeral - a very, very sad day. Norman loved the morris. He danced it in a beautiful neat economical style. He was the most faithful member of the club. He was the best of companions and the salt of the earth. His son, Peter, dances with us regularly.

15th June. We showed the morris in the last of a series of outdoor country dances held in the grounds of Marble Hill, Twickenham.

16 - 18 June. The West Somerset mini-Ring meeting: dancing through delightful Somerset villages and en masse with a feast at Minehead. We camped in Brian Heaton's orchard where we were joined by Dick Musson, now working in Somerset. Grand weekend.

24th June. We went out with Hammersmith M.M. and joined in their noisy Ale in the evening in the London Rowing Club.

1st - 3rd July. The Krov/Mosel weekend. Mr and Mrs Furness of Ewell had seen us dancing on Boxing Days. They arranged for an invitation to TVMM to attend the 19th annual folk costume wearing festival at the small Moselle town of Krov. This festival is the occasion of the town's wine tasting and wine selling. The whole town is en fete, the streets decorated with banners and branches of oak trees. The local "plonk" Krover Nachtarch flows through the town fountain. About sixty German clubs attended and about twelve foreign groups including Dutch, Belgium, Swiss, Spanish, Hungarian, Luxemburgers and - the English. We found on arrival that the English morris was this year's feature: thousands of wine glasses and goblets had a picture of a morris man, we headed the mile long procession and danced, alone, at the opening

reception. It happened, also, that this year's "Protector" was an Englishman (although with a French sounding name) Geoffrey de Freitas.

The four car parties assembled in Krov on Friday afternoon in teeming rain. Digger, David and Johnny and their wives took their annual holiday at this time, camping in Austria and joined the rest of us in Krov at the end of their stay. We were all guests in the homes of the townsfolk. It was during this settling in we were slightly startled with the freedom in which the wine flowed.

During the evening we started dancing, in our traditional English fashion, in the streets and between the band concerts (of which there were dozens) in the vast tented areas given over to the festival.

The festival started formally on Saturday with the arrival of the Protector. This was the first time we morrised before a big crowd.

The central feature of the festival came later. All the teams taking part performed one after another on a great raft in the Mosel. Teams were ferried to and from it in barges. We were less than satisfied with our performance on the raft. The high point of the show was the arrival of Mosella and her maidens in an illuminated floating "shell". The maidens danced in classical style. It being now dusk, at a signal, the whole opposite, steep sided Mosel hillside burst into red fire and thousands of coloured lights floated down the river. The whole wonderful spectacle was watched by thousands of people.

Afterwards we morrised and drank. Our last dance, as I hazily recall, was Lads a Bunchum where I tried vainly to strike one of the six sticks held by my partner while my neighbour managed the stick hitting perfectly although flat on his back. Bill and I found putting a morris team and their wives to bed an hilarious business.

Sunday, morning church did not appear to happen, so we listened quietly to band music being played loudly and then, gently, took a small hair of the dog. The afternoon saw this enormous procession with the English morris just after the leading band. Our processing, Winster and so on, and contact with the crowd through the Goat and the Fool was a great success. There followed another barge performance where, we think, our contribution was more successful. Later we joined the Swiss for dancing and Alpine horn blowing in a wine cellar. Then we had one of our rather high toned feasts and finished with a sort of ceilidh in a cellar where a few local drinkers joined us.

Next day we none of us allowed sufficient time for the drive back to the Channel and we scrambled back to various ports for last boats home. My party - Francis, Mervyn and Ann - finished with two beers and four straws (owing to currency difficulties) at Calais.

Mr and Mrs Furness and party spent the weekend in Krov and we joined them from time to time.

8th July. The London Ring meeting. This meeting will be remembered for the appalling weather. We attended for the day only. It may not have any significance but

we were the first side to dance in the pouring rain in Trafalgar Square: all the others followed. Ted and our neighbours, East Surrey, had a splendid music session in a pub under the Arches of Charing Cross. Our original musician, Martin Jolley, now recovered in health and playing for East Surrey, was in tremendous musical form.

12 July. Kingston District Children's Festival at Lovelace School, Surbiton. St Andrews boys danced the morris - having been taught by Ron Horsley and C.D.S.

22 July. A treacherous memory only allows "Morris 'tour" on this date!

5 - 12 August. TVMM had the morris holiday in Aran, Firth of Clyde, this year. Stephen Ashcroft, there with his wife, writes: "The advantage of arriving in a cloudburst is that you can see the way the land drains. Otherwise you are likely to find rivers appearing in inconvenient spots - like outside the doors of the Squire's tent. As far as dancing goes, you name the village, we danced in it. They'd been looking forward to us since winter. Our last visit, fifteen years ago, is still remembered as the year the morris men came and someone was killed on the mountains. Our reception was fantastic especially as very few people there had seen the morris before. Wolf whistles were not unknown.

Particularly I remember the agricultural show at Lamlash and a ceilidh at the same village which we almost didn't go to.

Thursday (our off day - and very much a necessity) saw a successful dinner. The hotel served many types of malt whisky. One oddity, by the bye, Scottish pubs don't like you taking glasses outside the building.

A note for future folklorists - the Corrie Haggis dancers (mini kilts for whites, bracken for wavers, golf clubs for sticks) are a new development but very ethnic. After I got home I awoke one night to hear my wife singing in her sleep "First corners, second corners, on the spot and cha-ange""

The climbing section of TVMM did several walks including a traverse of the Cir mhor ridge.

26 August. A camping morris weekend in the Cotswolds at Withington. We were joined at some stops. by some men from the Gloucester M.M.

2nd September. TVMM had an extremely strenuous part to play in Guildford Town Show. St Albans, Chanctonbury Ring and Cup Hill M.M. joined us. We toured in the morning, gave massed morris shows in the arena in the afternoon and went on the procession in the evening. The day finished with an Ale in a tent specially provided for us on the show ground.

? September. A day tour taking in Thorpe, Laleham and Shepperton.

30 September. A tour in central Surrey around Betchworth and finishing, as often before, in Leigh.

6 October. Crowlink again and some morris and sword.

21 October. We showed the morris at a church social in Wimbledon.

4th November. Yet again we morrised at Chiddingfold to the hundreds of people gathered to see the enormous bonfire and firework display.

26th December. Claygate Boxing Day tour. The weather was fine and warm and so the tour was its usual great success.

30 December. We provided morris as a cabaret act at a very big and, I expect, expensive party in the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow Airport.

The club continues to flourish. Numbers remain constant. Practices are regular but tend to start later! Down the years we have had many fine morris jaunts but the Krov/Mosel trip is, perhaps, the most memorable.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 24th November 1972.**

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Tofts, Johnny Hall, Alan Dean, Andy Melville and Chris Evans. Siward Glaister's illness in hospital was mentioned and good wishes were sent to him.

1. Minutes of the 1971 meeting were read, agreed and signed.
2. Treasurer's Report was given and accepted with thanks to Francis Smith for its preparation. Money in hand £123.05; turnover £438. It was resolved to give £10 to the English Folk Dance and Song Society and £10 to the Morris Ring of England to go to the Film Archival Fund. A request from the local Cancer Research Appeal was turned down.
3. Bagman's Report included remarks on the clubs well-being, regrets that we were not able to attend Thaxted meeting in 1972 although plans had been made to do so and about the difficulties in sending circulars.
4. Squire's report. The Squire spoke of the cloud over the year cast by Norman's death. The programme had been a good one, especially the German visit to Krov/Mosel. Dancing was of a reasonable standard although practices had been rather unsatisfactory. He asked men to turn up in good time. He thanked Jim Brooks warmly for having the new men and others to his house for extra practice. Several expressions of gratitude were made to one and another of the men in respect of special help such as supplying music and so on.
5. Club Report is contained in the Log, parts of which were read.
6. Elections. Peter Jones was unanimously re-elected Squire. C.D.Smith was elected Bagman. Digger Glaister was thanked for his period as Bagman. David Dearsley was elected treasurer. Francis Smith, retiring Treasurer, was thanked for his help to the club.
7. Any Other Business included a preliminary consideration of the fixture list. It was resolved to have Ladies Pleasure and a film show on separate occasions. It was resolved to have prepared club Christmas greeting cards and to send them to friends of the club.

The meeting closed at 2215. (Signed)

Peter Jones.

## **LOG 1973. Thames Valley Morris Men.**

12th January. TVMM showed the morris at Ewell for Surrey Bee Keepers Sssociation, of which organisation our friend, Mrs Furness, is secretary.

3rd February. Ladies Pleasure at Pyrford Village Hall. Always enjoyable we were yet again regaled by Digger's Pam's magnificent food.

7th February. Jim Brooks and C.D.S. visited C. Sharp House to see archival films.

10th February. TVMM showed morris at a party at Ewell Teohnical College where Siward is a teacher.

17th February. Representatives meeting at C.S. House.

16th March. Crowlink.

Sunday 29th April. After assembling and drinking and dancing at the Ashley Arms, Hersham (which we often visit) we went on to morris at a garden centre in Twickenham. This was a purely commercial arrangement, part of the firm's sales promotion.

4th May. Morris at Pyrford Spring Fling.

5th May. Very disappointly the arrangement made with Roy Dommett, who came to Claygate with film and sound equipment, we were prevented from making an archival film record of the dances in the Oddington tradition by torrential rain. We had a full side out for it. Despite the rain we morrised for a church fair in Richmond. This was a great success. We then went on for our Hock tide dancing at Kingston Parish church. Heston Boys came with us. Jim Brooks and his Kathleen had us all to tea and a television view of the Cup Final. Roy made an ordinary film of some morris which he later gave to Jim. TVMM then went on to a couple of pub stops while C.D. S. drove Roy home and then, even later, joined the Farnborough Men at the end of their day's tour.

Thursday 10th May. The first meeting of representatives of the London Morris Clubs at which, among other things, it was mooted the idea of a weekly morris show in a chosen spot throughout the summer.

14th April. A side danced morris at a wedding party of a friend or one of the men. The cheque in payment for this was later dishonoured!

19th May. A combined tour of TVMM and the Broadwood M.M. to Abinger, Shere, Clandon, Betchworth was successful and enjoyed by both sides.

Sunday 20th May. The Folk service at Holy Trinity church, Claygate. It followed the pattern of the previous year but with more music and without the Abbots Bromley horn dance. The Vicar's sermon became almost a singing workshop. By this means the whole congregation were taken up in this act of worship.

2nd June. Guildford Arts Festival. TVMM had a morris tour in the morning and added country dancing at one stop. In the Stoke Park show we morrised and later supplied some dancers for a folk dance display. We had a few pub stops in the evening. On this day Surrey University at Stag Hill, Guildford, had a one day folk festival. During the afternoon sent two morris sides into the town - Pilgrim, a new club, and Stag Hill, the University side. They also helped with the country dancing in Stoke Park.

16th June. We morrised at Keith Gauntlett's wedding at Chessington. Keith is Treasurer of the Kingston EFDSS District. In the evening we morrised and joined in country dancing at a dance in Kew Gardens for its staff where the caller was John Glaister.

23rd June. After giving shows at a scout fete and a church fete we went to Siward and Jenny for a fine strawberry tea. In the evening we, yet again, morrised and country danced to John's calling and playing in the fine barn at Hardwiok.

29th June. The Surrey branch of N.F.U. were entertaining a party of German farmers to a tour and later a party at Horsley. TVMM morrised, the country dancers showed the English dances and the singers sang. All joined in a splendid supper in a great barn. The speeches in appreciation were in German and so cannot be reported here.

14th July. David's tour in his part of Surrey around Haslemere.

Wednesday 18th July. Jhn was calling a marquee country dance at the Byfleet Town Show: TVMM danced some morris.

19th July. Second meeting of the Morris Clubs of London.

28th July. Alan's tour in the Shere/Abinger area.

5th - 10th August. The Cotswold morris holiday at Hilcot near Withington. The first day or two were spoilt by rain. This was disappointing because we were joined by old friends and clubmates, Dick Musson, Nick Oliver and Stan Kilby. The weather improved and we enjoyed the camping and the dancing. We morrised at the small villages in the south of the Cotswolds. We like this and it, incidentally, does not conflict with the Ring's suggestion that the bigger centres - Stow, Chipping Campden and Bourton and Broadway - be avoided. We had our traditional "posh nosh" at the Shaven Head, Shipton under Wychwood. We were a full side on this holiday, the mountaineering section having taken itself off to Glen Etive nevertheless.

1 - 2 September. A few days before the Yeovil Ring meeting we found we had not enough men to make a side and had, regretfully, to cancel. However, Hugh, now living in Somerset, could not be told and he attended the meeting, the sole representative of TVMM - except C.D.S. looking in briefly at a dance stop, the feast and the church service. From these observations the meeting appeared to be a very successful one.

8th September. At Stoke Hotel, Guildford, we morrised at a dance called by a former TVMM member, Mark Berry. The Cheviot Ranters supplied the splendid music.

19th September. While on holiday at Bourton-on-the ~Water, C.D.S. went on a little, non-dancing tour alone and in darkness! He had a drink at the Kings Head, Bledington; at the Coach and Horses, Oddington; at the Coach and Horses, Longborough; and at the Red Lion, Ilmington.

6th October. Ron Duncombe, Jim Brooks and C.D.S. attended, in costume, a service of re-dedication of the bells and tower of Kingston Parish Church. The invitation came to them as a result of the money gifts TVMM had made to the church at the Hock tide morris and thus continues the connection between this church and the morris first recorded in the churchwarden's accounts in 1501.

10th November. TVMM 21st anniversary celebrations at Arbrook Hall, Claygate. This was a most successful party. We danced a good deal of morris and some country dances. We sang and Jim Brooks showed some film and slides. Billy Wakefield provided some magnificent sides of beef and Mrs Babs Smith catered. Founder members present were C.D.Smith, John Glaister, Philip Sylvester, Gordon Ralph, Bevis Colmer. Members from very early on were Christopher Penton, Bill Tofts, Jim Barclay, Hugh Gibson, Ted Perry, Christopher Ridley, Jim Brooks, Ron Duncombe. Present members of the club present were Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister Francis Smith, Peter Jones, Bill Wakefield, Stenben Ashcroft, John Hall, David Dearsley, Peter Keam, Alan Dean, Andy Melville, Mel Dean. Former members of the club - or more accurately, members of the club who can no longer dance with the present side - joined us or sent greetings. They were Dick Musson, Nick Oliver, Gordon Smith, Dennis Salt, Ron Brand, Ted Dowling, Jim Perry, Martin Jolley, Stan Kilby, Brian Heaton, Keith Haynes, Peter Dashwood. Other friends came - Roy Dommett, Bob Bradbury, Tony Pegram, Terry Smith. Don Byfleet was prevented by illness from coming, as also was Neil Cornell and Malcolm Snowdon. Chris Evans was appearing in Gilbert and Sullivan elsewhere. Wives and sweethearts of nearly all the men were present. The press attended and later printed an account of the party and a picture.

3rd November. As for several previous years we attended the great bonfire at Chiddingfold. We had nine men out. The organisers had also, by chance we gather, invited the Cup Hill Morris Men. The two sides combined very amiably and enjoyably to show the morris.

18th November. The Kingston EFDSS District had its autumn weekend at Netley House, Gomshall (instead of at Crowlink). Bevis Colmer and C.D.Smith instructed in morris.

7th December. The licensee of the Ashley Arms, Walton (a frequent port, of call) invited us to her 70th birthday party. It was so crowded inside and so wet outside we could not morris. Healths were drunk.

26th December. The traditional Boxing Day tour of the Claygate pubs. The weather was dry, dull and warm. The crowds were the biggest we have ever had and the interest shown in the morris was enormous. The quality of the dancing improved from the "Winner" to the "Hare". Thereafter fatigue and alcohol took toll. At the "Hare"

Peter danced himself out and Bill Tofts danced himself in as Squire. The bag, including the £5 sent us by Christopher Penton, who does this every year, amounted to £56. The names of the men who turned out on this occasion will indicate the strength of the club; John Glaister, Siward Glaister, (Digger Glaister was unable to attend) Peter Jones, Bill Tofts, Francis Smith, Hugh Gibson, Ron Duncombe, Jim Brooks, Jim Barclay, David Dearsley, Johnny Hall, Peter Keam, Alan Dean, Andy Melville, Christopher Evans, Cyril Smith and Malcolm Snowdon.

1973 was thought to be one of the less successful years in the clubs history. The failure in May to make the Oddington archival film was the biggest disappointment. The 21st party and Boxing Day were very successful, indeed.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 23rd November 1973.**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Keam.
  2. Minutes of the 1972 meeting were read, agreed and signed.
  3. Matters arising - Last year's decision to prepare and send Xmas cards had been carried out.
  4. Treasurer's Report - given by David Dearsley. In hand £153.82. There was, however, a debt, mostly in respect of the 21st anniversary party, of about £60. £25 worth of Premium bonds had been bought on behalf of TVMM. Bagman read a list of properties owned by the club. David's report was accepted with thanks.
  13. Squire's Report - Peter Jones felt the year's activities had been a little disappointing. Attendances at practice had been rather poor and, in consequence, it had been harder to make up numbers for the tours. Weather had spoilt the archival filming. The Yeovil Ring meeting had had to be cancelled for TVMM and so no Ring meeting had been attended this year. Jim Brooks added it was a pity we no longer attended the instruction meeting at C.S.House.
  6. Bagman's Report - contained in the Log and read in part.
  7. Elections - Bill Tofts was elected Squire to follow Peter Jones. David Dearsley was elected Bagman and his duties as Treasurer were to be included in these of that office. Cyril Smith is to give special support to the Bagman for the time being.
  8. Planning - Decided to attend the party at Ashley Arms, Hersham in December: to do the usual Boxing Day tour of Claygate: to dance for Old Folks party, Claygate: to dance at John Glaister's dance at Forest Row: and to accept the invitation to the Winchester Ale. It was decided to accept the invitation to the Forest of Dean weekend in June but not to accept that to Headington Quarry in September. The morris holiday was considered and the date fixed for 4 - 11 August 1974. An invitation to Sweden was also considered.
  9. Under any other business - it was resolved to stand for a moment at every AGM in memory of members who have died.
- Business, under several heads, was left to an adjourned meeting.  
The meeting adjourned at 2220.

### **Minutes of the Adjourned AGM held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 30th November 1973.**

1. Fixtures for 1974 were considered and decided on.
2. Ring circulars were considered and contents noted.
3. It was decided to donate £5 to EFDSS and £5 to the Ring.

4. Mention was made of the newly formed Rift Valley Morris Men of Kenya led by our Mervyn Stanley.
  5. The possibility of tours to Delft (twin town of Kingston-On-Thames) in 1974 and to Sweden in 1975 were considered.
- The meeting closed 2220.

## **LOG 1974. Thames Valley Morris Men.**

2nd January. Having assembled and limbered up at the Hare and Hounds, Claygate, we crossed the road to dance morris at a party given to Claygate Old Folks.

5th January. We danced some morris and played and sang for some mentally handicapped youngsters at a club in Woking where Francis' Margaret helps.

15th January. We were represented at a meeting of the London morris clubs.

19th January. We morrised and rapped at a dance held in aid of the funds of John's (Glaister) school at Forest Row.

26th January. Again we enjoyed the hospitality of the Winchester Men at their Ale. Power restrictions caused some difficulty, successfully overcome.

2nd February. Cyril Smith was the guest of Christopher Penton and his Trigg Men at Bodmin at their Ladies Night.

9th February. Cyril Smith spent this day with John Wells, bagman of the Ring, discussing Ring finance and finally having to decide not to be responsible for it.

15 - 16 February. The Albert Hall Festival. The morris comprised the Bidford tradition by Stratford Men and the two Bampton sides dancing together.

16th February. We were represented at the reps. meeting of the Ring.

19th February. In response to a request from the EFDSS, Cyril Smith spoke, showed Jim Brooks' film and instructed in morris some 15 year old lads at an ESN school at Redhill. He was moved by the enthusiasm and gratitude shown.

5th March. London Morris Clubs meeting.

21st March. This was the dress rehearsal of a performance of Shakespeare's "Dream" by students at a school at Staines. A morris dance had been introduced into the workmen's play, instruction in it having been given by Cyril Smith. These 16 year olds had learned it well in a short space of time.

23rd March. Ladies Pleasure at Claygate Village Hall. We had no visitors, apart from our ladies, but a lot of fun and splendid food prepared by Digger's Pam.

30th March. We morrised and rapped at a party at Ewell Tech. where Siward lectures.

5 - 7 April. Morris and rapper instruction given by Cyril Smith at this EFDSS course at Crowlink, Sussex. Music was supplied by a founder member, Bevis Colmer.

10 April. A group of men and their women meet as a folk club in the Fighting Cocks, Kingston. They practise the rapper and mummers' plays. They expressed a wish to

Cyril Smith to have a look at the Cotswold morris. In consequence, they come as a group on a Wednesday evening to the Foley Hall, Claygate, for instruction by TVMM - Cyril Smith, Jim Brooks and Ron Duncombe. This was the first of a series.

13 April. We were guests - and we danced - at the very picturesque wedding of a former member of the side, Rick (name forgotten) at Woodmansterne.

3rd May. As in earlier years we morrised at the Pyrford Spring Fling. Cyril Smith, not dancing, was proud of the high standard reached by his clubmates.

27th April. Hocktide. As for many years we danced in Kingston Parish Churchyard. The Heston Boys were with us. While it was a successful occasion, it was cut rather short by the cold weather. After tea we had a pub tour to the George and Dragon, the Swan and the Alma, all in Thames Ditton.

4th May. We feasted and danced at the wedding of Adrian, a new member and a friend of 'the Lads' (Andy, Alan and Peter).

7th May. London morris clubs meeting,

8th May. 'Fighting Cocks men' practice.

11th May. This was the Squire's (very strenuous) tour. We danced at Richmond Green, St Paul's church fete, the Rowbarge pub, and at a community festival at Springgrove Festival, Kingston. After tea we had successful stops at Church Square, Shepperton and the Vines, Chertsey.

On the same day, Cyril Smith attended the big and successful Westmtnster Day in order to be instructed in filming. He assisted John Wells in making a film record of the whole meeting. The meeting was attended by at least ten clubs including the Goathland Plough Stots and Garstang (Lancashire) morris.

15th May. Fighting Cooks practice. These Wednesday night practices continue indefinitely. This is in addition to the regular Friday night practice.

18th May. We provided a morris interlude at a Music and Dance Festival at the Weybridge Hall, Weybridge.

25th May. Andy's tour included successful stops at Ewell, Epsom, Epsom Downs, Downside, Cobham and Oxshott.

1st June. The Miller party at Farley Green. Mrs Miller, daughter of CDS, gave a big party and the morris men showed the morris during the evening.

7 - 9 June. The Forest of Dean M.M. family camping weekend. This was very enjoyable, the pattern of arrangements being much to the taste of TVMM. About 12 clubs attended and occupied a pleasant camp site in a small Gloucester village. Morris men were accompanied by wives, girl, friends, children, and household pets including a cat. On Friday there was a very noisy folksy ceilidh. Saturday's tours took us to pleasant Forest villages. TVMM were with John of Gaunt Lancashire morris dancers. Massed dancing in Coleford was slightly marred by rain. An elaborate and successful

ceilidh was held in Coleford Community Centre, various folk activities taking place in different parts of the building. The Sunday morning service at Eatwell suffered a delayed start with the vicar showing enterprise in varying the order of service to fill in time. A magnificent meal was provided in Eatwell Castle and dancing on the lawn ended a very enjoyable weekend.

16th June. We showed the morris at a festival arranged by the Students Union of Maria Grey Teacher Training College, Twickenham. It was a very pleasant Sunday afternoon.

20th June. We morrised at one of a series of EFDSS country dances in the grounds of Marble Hill, Twickenham.

22nd June. Siward's tour followed the usual enjoyable pattern: stops in shopping centres, pubs, fetes and, finally, a barbecue. Siward's Jenny gave us, also as usual, a splendid strawberry and cream tea.

26th June. This was TVMM's turn to perform in Broad Sanctuary, Westminster Abbey in the series of Wednesday evening shows. We were accompanied by the Fighting Cocks Folk Group who did their rapper and mummer's play. The weather was poor but crowds, bag and performances were satisfactory. We spent 65 minutes there, a little longer than other sides during the year. The remainder of the evening in the Duke of Buckingham was also satisfactory.

29th June. We had been engaged by an agent for a big fee to be on hand all this afternoon to show the morris in turn with a brass band and a punch and judy show to the crowds on the towpath attending Richmond Regatta. The weather was glorious and we enjoyed the afternoon. In passing, a Christmas card used fairly widely last year was a picture of a fragment of a work by a Dutch master dated 1640 showing morris dancing on the towpath at Richmond. TVMM have a long pedigree.

6th July. Johnny's tour in the Farnham area. Three pub stops, dancing in a park in Farnham in the afternoon, tea at Johnny's home and two evening pub stops made up this enjoyable tour.

On the same evening, Cyril Smith was the caller at dance at Twickenham College of Technology. In place of TVMM, absent on tour, the Fighting Cocks men supplied rapper as an item in the programme. These men continue to practise morris in Claygate on Wednesdays under instruction from several TVMM.

19 - 21 July. Winchester Ring Meeting. TVMM had ten men attending. The campsite was delightful, the weather beautiful, the Ale, the tour with Albion and Trigg (accompanied by two former TVMM, Christopher Penton and Christopher Ridley), the Feast, the massed dancing, first at Castle Yard and next day in the Cathedral Close, the service in the Cathedral all made an extremely successful Ring meeting. Our enjoyment of it almost won us over to saying we are 'for' Ring meetings: we have avoided these very big affairs recently.

3rd August. For this year's morris holiday TVMM returned to the Border country. The excellent campsite was at Attonburn, up the Bowmont Water Valley, 3 miles from Town Yetholm. Despite occasional rain the camping throughout the week was

delightful. Every evening we went to the Plough in Yetholm where the licensee and his wife made us especially welcome and always encouraged singing and playing in the bars.

The tours fell into a pattern. On Sunday we danced in Bamburgh, a splendid site and sight, were given tea in a nearby cafe and danced again. On Monday at Alnwick, a session in the market square before and after a (free) meal. On Tuesday, after a midmorning stop at Belford (where we met Dick Shepherd, a former squire of Royal Liberty M.M., who made a film of us) we went on to Holy Island for two longish sessions. On Wednesday, an off day, some of the walkers did a skyline traverse at Attonburn. On Thursday we went to Kelso where after a rain storm cleared, we danced the now usual two sessions. Finally on Friday we had two very big sessions in the crowded High St., Berwick-on-Tweed. This was largely stagemanaged by a policeman and a traffic warden. The one-man band was ordered off by the policeman because he 'had no Licence'. The week's bag amounted to £150.

We gave our farewell performance, including the newly-learned Upton-on-Severn Stick Dance, in Yetholm before going to the Plough for our traditional feast. Peter, Marian and Philip Williams, all musicians, had been with us all the week as had also Ron and Margaret Horsley, also players, and they were with us at the "nosh". The party broke up on 10th August.

A mountaineering party (A) went off to the Cairngorms. Its support party (B) stayed at Yetholm for yet another musical night at the Plough. The two parties assembled on the Sunday at Blair Athol. A base camp was made at a lovely spot in Glen Errochty. On Monday B party sent off the walkers from Aviemore in torrential rain for their three day traverse of the Larig Ghru. Tuesday was spent by B party picknicking and mountain gazing. On Wednesday John Glaister drove the party in his Land Rover six miles along the mountain track up Glen Tilt. B party duly met A party a mile beyond this point. The whole exercise was successfully concluded with an excellent dinner at the Stuan Hotel.

On Thursday a short walk was taken on the flanks of Schehallion after which CDS and party returned to Claygate. The remainder returned to Glen Errochty where, next day, before departure for home, they were mildly involved in a hunt for armed robbers of the Post Office at Kinloch Rannoch. Siward and party had car trouble on the way home - so slightly marring an otherwise most successful holiday.

23 - 26 August. A weekend in the Cotswolds again, at Withington. A small party of TVMM went for their usual camping, morrissing, drinking and skittling. Numbers were so small that there was nearly no morris but members of the club living in the West - Dick Musson, Nick Oliver and Stan Kilby - joined them and all was very well.

7th September. Jim Barclay's tour - West End, Esher; the Wheatsheaf, Esher; a school fete; tea at Jim's and two pubs in Epsom. At these last two, we were joined by a number of our 'related' club, the Fighting Cocks. The men studied the theory and drinking: they are not yet ready for public morris performance.

14th September. A bare six morrissed to John's playing at a dance at Stoke Hotel, Guildford, where the Cheviot Ranters were providing splendid music for the dancing. A sharp blow on the head caused the No. 1 to finish the programme in a silent world.

21st September. David's tour was rather a sketchy one. It had a pub lunch stop, two school fetes at Addlestone, tea with John and a non-dancing stop at the William IV at Mickleham.

4 - 6 October. A large party, including Jim Brooks and Roy Dommett, spent the weekend in camp at Godshill, Hants, partly deciding on and practising a programme for Paris but mostly bringing up from memory morris that we had studied in the past but have forgotten because it has not been included in current programmes. We did no public dancing and can say this stroll down Memory Lane was enjoyable and valuable, morriswise - to use a fashionable phrase.

10 - 13 October. A party of 22 including men, women and children were the guests of the town of Rueil~Mal~aison near Paris at its Folklore Festival. Rueil is twinned with one of the towns in our area, Walton and Weybridge, and it was through this connection we received our invitation. The main party travelled (Dover~Dunkirk) and were met at the Gare du Nord by a coach which was for our use freely for the whole of our stay. Friday was spent visiting, among other places, Chateau Malmaison ("Not tonight, Josephine.") and Versailles and being given excellent (free) meals. On Saturday, Siward and Cyril Smith joined the party, having remained behind to finish the General Election. They, too, were collected at the Gare du Nord. More sight-seeing, more splendid meals. During Saturday afternoon our coach driver plunged into the narrow, hilly streets of Montmartre. The extrication was hilarious. He backed and locked, drove wrongly down one way streets with all TVMM in the road shouting help in exorable French and blasphemous English, lifting cars bodily out of the way of the coach. One's impression is of emerging from a trail of small, wrecked Renaults. The evening saw us attending a splendid banquet given for the Bretons, the Alsatians, the Swiss and us. Councillor Paul Vanson, president of the Twinning Guild and member of Elmbridge Council, his wife and family had arrived during the day and translated the speeches for us. M. le President de TVMM, Bill Tofts, made a speech in what was believed to be French. We danced a little morris later. The family members of the party were quartered (freely again) in a four star hotel and the rest of us in the very fine Esso Stade.

On Sunday morning we and the Bretons toured dancing in our traditional way around Rueil. In the afternoon we were part of a mile long procession to the great marquee to be used for the main Festival. We were rather pleased with the way we contrived to turn Monks March, Highland Mary, Bonny Green and others into processional dances. The crowd liked it, too. There was a great band - Garde Republicain, I think, and fluffy morris. There were about 18 national groups, some from their homes, some expatriates living in Paris. Each gave a performance and the whole show starting at 1pm lasted 4 hours. Peter Jones had to leave early to catch a plane so we were allowed to go on early. This allowed us to first refresh ourselves and return to watch and enjoy a great deal of the rest of the Festival.

It was only the previous evening that we learned the festival was a competition. Ah, well. To our astonished delight we won the cup. A magnificent goblet. How to succeed without really trying.

The young men stayed on in Paris on .holiday. The .rest of us returned to this misty island off north-west Europe - weary, mildly triumphant and grateful for a splendid weekend.

9th October. We morrised at Neil's church dance at Egham. It was with difficulty we mustered a side.

8th November. A.G.M. Mervyn elected squire for next year.

9th November. We supplied a vigorous, and, so far as we were concerned, enjoyable morris interlude at John's school dance at Forest Row - as we have on other occasions.

15th November. We had a big turn-out including three characters for morris and rapper at a Conservative Party party at Hinchley Wood. Our programme lasted more than 45 minutes.

16th November. International Festival at Epsom arranged by the local Caledonian Society. The non-Scottish part of the programme was provided by folk dancers and singers from Boulogne and TVMM. We joined in the general Highland dancing, were deafened by the pipe band, admired the splendid London Scottish, and, when we followed with morris and rapper, did not feel disgraced. A very enjoyable affair.

29th November. Adjourned A.G.M.

6th December. Pyrford Christmas dance. TVMM did not dance, their place being taken by the Fighting Cocks Folk Club with rapper and the mummers' play.

10th December. Similarly at Kenley Ward, Kingston Hospital, the Fighting Cocks added songs, a morris jig to their rapper and mummers' play.

16th December. Again we helped entertain at a party for the mentally handicapped in Wioking. There were certain difficulties about remembering where to go and where the sticks were.

Boxing Day 26th December. Light drizzle stopped just before we started the tour at the Swan and it continued warm and dry for the rest of the morning. We had 20 men dancing. Bill danced himself out as Squire and Mervyn danced himself in at the Hare and Hounds. The apprentice Tim Beardmore danced himself into the side at the Foley. The crowds were bigger than ever and they contributed to our biggest bag so far, £70. The day was as completely successful as many before.

Many people come distances to be with us.

1974 was for TVMM a complete success. Our dancing style has taken on a distinct character - adequately skilful, rather light with little stamping, strong and, above all, exuberantly cheerful. Two men of great promise as dancers and club members have joined us, Brian Lever and Tim Beardmore. They both come via Fighting Cocks Folk Club. John Glaister and Peter Jones continue as principal musicians but Alan Dean and Mervyn Stanley and, occasionally, Neil Cornell are coming on apace. We had two quite remarkably successful events - the morris week in Roxburghshire (followed by the walking, including the Larig Grhu in the Cairngorms) and the weekend at the Folk Festival in Rueil-Malmaison where we won a splendid cup. Contacts with the Forest of Dean M.M., the Morris Clubs of London and help in the preparation of the Bacon Aide-memoire save us from being too inward-looking as a club.

Bill Tofts and Cyril Smith represented us at the London Morris Clubs 'nosh' in the Paviour Arms, Westminster, on Monday 9th December. Alun Jones and Paul Cooper represented the Fighting Cocks there.

The club flourishes and, it is thought, will continue to be a leading side among all the many morris clubs that are forming nowadays.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate on Friday 8th November 1974.**

Present: Bill Tofts, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, David Dearsley, Mervyn Stanley (recently returned from two years in Kenya) Jim Barclay, Jim Brooks, Andy Melville, Peter Keam, Ron Duncombe, Digger Glaister and Cyril Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Jones, Francis Smith, Brian Lever, Alan Dean and Gordon Smith.

1. Minutes of the 1973 meeting were read and accepted. It was recalled that we resolved to stand in silent memory of club members who have died - George Lawrence and Norman Keam. This was done.

It was resolved to have prepared Christmas greeting cards to be sent to all the club's friends.

2. Correspondence: Letters re Whitchurch Men; Whitton Welsh; Forest of Dean; Pershore weekend; Richmond May Fayre; Leatherhead Leisure Centre; EFDSS Folk Centre; Ring circulars relating to subscriptions, Ring meetings, insurance, the Bacon morris book, and archival filming all noted.

3. Squire's Report: Bill spoke about Siward's help during the year; our 42 fixtures so far this year; success despite bad weather; continued high standard of dancing; poor punctuality; gratitude to Jim Brooks for his instruction; gratitude to Cyril Smith for the Wednesday meetings; suggestions for future practices; Mervyn's return from Africa; Jim Barclay being able to attend more regularly; difficulty of staffing some tours; and thanks for his clubmates support. John Glaister remarked that the morris holiday in the Border country this year was the most successful.

4. Treasurer's Report: David Dearsley reported money in hand £90 including £24 worth of Premium Bonds David spoke of increasing average size of 'bags' - £56 Boxing Day, £30 on a day tour and £9 at a pub practice (of which there had been two this year). He suggested going back to our former arrangement of splitting the job of treasurer and bagman and also of budgeting with the cost of foreign trips in mind. David (and his wife, Kathy) were thanked for their work.

5. Bagman's report: Bagman reported the Log had been written up and it was taken as read. Bagman reported on the Wednesday practices. These were held in the Foley Hall and were attended by members of the Fighting Cocks Folk Club, members of Wheatsheaf M.M, Occasionally other novices and the average attendance was 16 men. Bagman also reported on the activities of the Morris Clubs of London - the summer evening dances at Westminster Abbey, the dancing in Paternoster Square in November in connection with the Lord Mayor's Show and the work put in on the Bacon Aide-memoire. Bagman's report was accepted.

6. Elections: Mervyn Stanley was elected squire. Cyril Smith was re-elected bagman. David was re-elected treasurer. A system of allocating arrangement of tours was decided on. Digger spoke of the use of the 'characters' and urged this be done by more men in turn.

7. Under Any Other Business: It was resolved to apply for affiliation to the Twinning Guild of Walton-on-Thames/Rueil-Malmaison.

It was resolved to donate £5 to the EFDSS and £5 to the Ring towards the cost of filming.

It was resolved to arrange to have the cup won at Rueil-Malmaison displayed in the Foley Arms bar for a limited period.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.15pm

**Minutes of the Adjourned A.G.M. held in the Foley Hall, Cl aygate , on Friday 29th November 1974.**

It was confirmed that we accept the invitation to Jersey next May. Bill Tofts is to be asked to be responsible for the organisation of this tour. It was decided not to plan a morris holiday next August. It was agreed to dance on a Wednesday next year in Westminster, date to be fixed. Plans were discussed to hold an Ale after the Hocktide dancing on 12th April next. It was decided to apply for places at the Ring meetings at Forest of Dean and Thaxted. More information was needed about the Whitchurch Day. It was decided to ask the Fighting Cocks to help at Richmond Fayre in our place. Offers for tours leaders were received: dates to be fixed later. Several other invitations to dance were decided upon.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

## **LOG 1975. Thames Valley Morris Men.**

9th January. TVMM provided a group of dances as an item in a square dance at Springgrove, Kingston-on-Thames, where John Glaister was the caller.

11th January. We contributed morris to a party given to old people at the B.A.C. club, Weybridge.

28th January. Meeting of Morris Clubs of London at the Pavours Arms, Westminster.

6th February. We demonstrated morris at a party of the Welsh community at Whitton, Twickenham.

7<sup>th</sup> February. Cyril Smith, engaged to talk about and show morris at a school in Redhill, arrived to find the occasion had been forgotten. No arrangements had been made!

15th February. Squire Mervyn and Cyril Smith attended the reps. meeting of the Ring at C.S.House.

22nd February. We danced the morris as an item in a folk concert at the College of Food Technology, Weybridge. The chief item was a performance by the Pig Hill Light Orchestra - a wild, bawdy and brilliant group. Our performance was a great success and we were mildly startled by being required to give an encore.

9th March. TVMM tried an experiment - a Sunday lunchtime morris show at a small pub, the Alma, Weston Green, Esher. It was a great success. The place was packed and the bag excellent. Paul Cooper (from the Fighting Cooks) danced himself into the side.

17th March. As a result of last year's attendance - and success - at the Rueil-Malmaison Folk Festival, TVMM affiliated to the Elmbridge/Rueil Twinning Guild. Our representative, Cyril Smith so far, attends the meetings where the continuing exchange of visits is arranged.

20th March. With only 5 dancers and a musician we danced at an Old Peoples party, Claygate. Despite the small number, we claim we produced an acceptable show: we enjoyed it.

21 - 23 April. Morris and rapper at the EFDSS District weekend at Crowlink.

12th April. Joined once again by the Heston Boys we danced at Kingston Parish church for Hocktide. The crowd we noticed stayed to watch and neglected the shopping. We dispersed for tea and gathered again at the Drill Hall, Cobham, for our Ale. All the Thames Valley apprentices (some formerly Fighting Cocks) attended, together with other old friends - Dennis Salt, Gordon Smith, Ted Dowling, Bevis Colmer, an East Surrey man and others. A successful evening.

19th April. Peter Keam's tour took TVMM north of the Thames including Chertsey and Feltham.

20th April. Months after early arrangements had been made, we danced at a medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel near Dorking. The delay was caused by serious damage by fire to the banquetting hall. David Blick and others from the Forest of Dean M.M. provided a play and actors for the banquet. TVMM supplied an interlude of morris. The men and the diners became very excited and the whole thing was a wild success.

23rd April. St George's Day. By arrangement with an entertainment broker, we danced both during the lunch hour and throughout the evening at the Plough, Thames Ditton - a St George's Brewers bouse. (Attempts were made to arrange with the broker for other teams and other public houses but little came out of the fairly frantic efforts!).

30th April. The London clubs booze-up attended by Fighting Cocks reps. TVMM were unrepresented: squire and bagman both ill.

2nd May. Pyrford country dancers held their Spring Fling. TVMM attended and danced a morris interlude.

3 - 10 May. The Jersey engagement. By arrangement with the Jersey States Tourist Committee, we engaged to dance in the Island and as items every evening in the Opera House. We were provided with free travel and accommodation in a very pleasant small hotel. John Israel collected the whole party - 13 men, 4 ladies and 2 youngsters - in his bus and drove them to Weymouth to catch the steamer to St Heliers. During the week we danced alternately morning and afternoon at spots chosen by our local guide. Every evening we provided a 'spot' in each of the two performances at the Opera House. Other performers were the Dusseldorf Fanfare, Chansons de Montreux and a splendid balalaika group. On the Friday evening we morrised and rapped on a stage in a park. Our dancing was always well received and we felt we were a success. Between engagements we went around the island. On one occasion at the Devils Hole, some of us were concerned with a cliff rescue - we located the stranded young men, called rescue parties and helped pull them up the cliff. The weather during the whole week was rather poor. We returned on Saturday morning to be met at Weymouth by the faithful John Israel and driven home in his bus.

16 - 19 May. In October of last year on our visit to Rueil-Malmaison we had received lavish hospitality. During this weekend we were able to do something in return for our new friends from Rueil. Under the aegis of the Twinning Guild of Elmbridge/Rueil - to which we are now affiliated - a big party of French, numbering 113 in all and including 49 folk dancers, spent the weekend in Elmbridge. TVMM and friends undertook to accommodate and generally look after about 30 of the French folk dancers. The weekend was hectic, marred by heavy rain but, at the end of it, judged very successful. Coming over, the French missed their boat and a number of them lost their luggage. They arrived at 2am instead of 9pm.

On the Saturday morning, most of us attended the civic reception at Elmbridge Town Hall. In the afternoon, altho planned and billed to dance in the open air at Walton, it

was necessary to have our folk dancers in King Georges Hall, Esher - out of the rain. This turned out to be a wild and very enjoyable party. In the evening all attended the official party at the Birds Eye premises at Walton. We morrised and sang and the French played and sang. There were 350 guests at the party.

Afterwards, driving home alone, Paul Cooper was involved in a crossroads collision. His car was destroyed and he found himself with a pelvis fracture, cracked ribs and head injuries in Kingston Hospital. He made a remarkable recovery and was dancing the morris again inside six weeks.

On Sunday morning we had a morris pub lunch at the Ashley Arms, Hersham. We and the French folk dancers performed there. On Sunday evening, the Phoenix Folk club were hosts to the visitors at a folk dance, again at King Georges Hall. This party was as gay, noisy and enjoyable as the earlier one.

On Monday morning, many of us bade a mildly emotional farewell to the French, who left for a sightseeing tour of London.

24 - 25 May. Engagements to morris and rapper were made at Weybridge Rowing Club on the afternoons of 24th and 25th May on the occasion of a Rally of Boats on the Thames. Mervyn, squire TVMM, led a party composed of one or two TVMM, some members of the Fighting Cocks Folk Club and TVMM apprentices who meet to practise on Wednesday. This group is often referred to as the Wednesday Lot. The standard of dancing was poor but the crowd enjoyed watching it and the experience was invaluable.

26th May. The Wednesday Lot, with help from Meryyn and Alan Dean, and without their Fighting Cocks rapper friends, had a very strenuous day out. Early in the afternoon we danced a morris programme as an item in an international folk festival arranged by the local District of the EFDSS at Marble Hill, Twickenham. We then hurried to a park in Hammersmith for another show in a vast arena there before an enormous crowd. Back then to Marble Hill for the evening performance of the Folk Festival. We ended the day at the Anchor, Twickenham, dancing outside for our own pleasure. By this time and in these surroundings the apprentices felt themselves a team and were dancing the morris in a style much nearer to that of the 'parent' club.

29th May. It was at this meeting of the London clubs that first mention was made of the interesting suggestion of a morris dance from London to Norwich to celebrate the Shakespearean clown, Will Kempe, on his performance of this feat in 1599.

31st May. Molesey Festival. During the mornin the Fighting Cocks rapped briefly at five of the pubs in Molesey. In the afternoon, joined by th Wednesday Lot, they gave a show at Glyn House, Ewell. In the evening TVMM apprentices danced morris and performed their mummings' play at a tiny 'tramps supper' at the Britamma, Surbiton.

1st June. A treacherous memory makes it unclear whether it was on this day we assisted with the first or the second medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel. David Blick and other Forest of Dean M.M. enact in appropriate costume a play during the meal and also sing and lead singing. TVMM provided morris, in suitably modified costume, "brought the house down". Such was the life and excitement we put into it, we found ourselves quite exhausted afterwards. This was a very notable piece of morris activity.

6th June. Hardwick Barn, Lyne (also having been repaired after fire damage) has become the venue for many dances in aid of various charitable and social purposes. The Thamesiders were playing at such a one and TVIW provided morris interludes.

7th June. Again at Hardwick Barn the next night, TVMM did it again. John Glaister was the caller at the annual District EFDSS folk dance. During the day there had been a tour - Byfleet, Wisley, Byfleet, a fete and tea at Joan Glaisters - all arranged by Francis. Bags are growing in size, but necessarily, alongside costs.

13 - 15 June. Forest of Dean Family Camp weekend. We had a bigish party including wives and children, all transported in John Israel's most useful bus. The campsite, a pleasant one, was at Ruardean. The weekend followed its usual enjoyable fashion. We toured with men from Merseyside and Stockport. The ceilidh was just as warm. Yet again, a church service was followed by an excellent lunch at Clearwell Castle.

Wednesday 18th June. This was our turn in Broad Sanctuary, Westminster. Fighting Cocks were with us and rapped. We felt it was successful but unremarkable. We all went on to the Hand in Hand and the Crooked Billet, Wimbledon, and had a right lively pub session. Masses of young people watching proved friendly and generous.

19th June. We barely made it! It was our day to morris at Marble Hill for the EFDSS District's series of Thursday open air dances. Alan Dean played. Ron Duncombe and Cyril Smith are ancient men. Alun Jones and Derek Paynter are apprentices. Paul Cooper is not yet fully recovered from his accident. That made Five. However there was in the crowd a stranger from East Kent, an excellent dancer, and the show went on!

20th June. John Glaister called and the Pyrford Band played at a party at a department of London University in Brunswick Square. TVMM showed some morris and this was well received. What the TVMM certainly well received was the Egyptian belly dancer and also the West Indian Steel Band. Food and drink were lavish and the grand party went on very late.

21st June. Meeting, but not dancing, at the Plough, Worcester Park, TVMM went on to dance at a fete at Malden Green. From there we rushed over to dance at a fete at Glyn House, Ewell. After this, back to Malden Green for a second show. This effort arose from the bagman's idea and he knows now that it was not a good one. The show in the beautiful garden at Ewell went particularly well. Occasionally the morris is affected very slightly by politics. We tend to charge Conservatives slightly more. We also recall that some of the men wore black arm bands one day after Harold Wilson snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory in a General Election.

20th June. Cyril Smith spent the morning at St Nicholas school, Redhill, a residential school for ESN lads. These lads tried hard but with small success to learn a bit of morris. There is no doubt, however, about their goodwill and gratitude.

23rd June. A meeting of the London clubs committee, Alun Jones and Cyril Smith attending.

28th June. This was another occasion where the club divided to dance. We had a side dancing all the afternoon on the towpath during the Richmond Regatta and a section of the team left, to be joined by others, to give a morris show at a school fete at Thorpe. Both were successful, several of the apprentices having made the arrangement possible. The apprentices are coming on apace both in dancing and in gaining experience of public, performance.

5th July. Andy's tour, very strenuous and very successful. Stops included Kings Head, Shepperton; Ashley Arms, Walton; Shopping precinct, Walton; Lucky Rover, Chessington; Victoria, Oxshott; the Crioketers, Weston Green. The bag, £52, was made a gift to John Glaister who had worn out his old melodeon in the service of TVMM and so was able to buy a new instrument from Bells of Surbiton.

6th July. A display at the big SALSA sports meeting at Laleham, Staines. Once again strong support from apprentices made this possible.

12th July. A tour starting at the Alma, Weston Green, went on to the West End, Esher, Flower Show, where the rain set in rather heavily. Having shown the morris we went on to lose the three-legged race and to lose the tug-of-war to a team of ladies. We had success in tipping girls into a bath of water, though. In the evening we had wet but surprisingly successful pitches at the Chequers, Walton-on-the-Hill and at the Running Horse, Mickleham. Afterwards we went on to show the morris (and eat and drink) at a dance near Dorking where John G. was calling.

13th July. Shere village had a village show all afternoon. We attended earlier and danced at intervals throughout the day. The pubs were open all day. On the way in convoy to Farley Green - the home of Cyril Smith's daughter - for tea, we had the unfortunate and not uncommon accident of Rick running into the back of Alun's car while traversing the narrow, winding lanes of that part of Surrey. Despite this dampener we enjoyed a meal and football and other garden games before going on to the Bulls Head, Clandon, for a final drink. At this stop, the club was represented only by the Wednesday Lot - apart from Mervyn's playing. The late joiners are catching up rapidly.

16th July. Byfleet Parish Day. As in earlier years, we had a good turnout for an evening morris show.

19th July. Two groups of people - the Byfleet Players of Pyrford and the John Innes Society of Merton - held evening barbecues. TVMM showed the morris first at one and then the other.

29th July. A party of 23 students, men and women, from Beara University, Kentucky, USA, were visiting this country and attending festivals in the North and Midlands. Jim Barclay and John Israel, knowing they wanted to visit the South, invited them to a ceilidh and a morris tour and gave them private accommodation. The ceilidh was held in John's Youth Centre at Roundshaw and was a great success. The Americans ran the dancing and showed some square sets: there was singing, general dancing and morris for as many as will. TVMM were there in strength and there were four East Surrey M.M.

Such was the enthusiasm for the morris that Tony Harber East Surrey, arranged a short tour for the following evening in Wallington and Carshalton. At the Cavalier, Carshalton, the evening finished with dancing for children, general dancing and American Square dancing. Jim and Pam Barclay entertained us all to a party at home afterwards.

16th August. A tour, organised by an apprentice but largely attended by ancient men and an Australian. Stops were made at Kings Arms, Hampton Court; Bell, East Molesey; Prince of Wales, Molesey; the Britannia, Surbiton, with its (rather pathetic) street festival; the Anchor and Pope's Grotto, Twickenham; finishing at Tudor Close, Richmond. The crowds were sizeable only at the last two stops but the bag was satisfactory. Three apprentices, Rick Payne, Mike Vardy and Jim Beard (who is also a fine fidler) danced themselves into the side as full members.

Sidmouth Week. Alun Jones, Paul Cooper and Derek Paynter attended this week and danced a good deal of morris wearing TVMM kit.

22 - 25 August. The annual August weekend camp in the Cotswolds. This year it was the most successful for many years. Men and parties including women, children and dogs, assembled at the Kings Head, Withington, or at the excellent campsite by the stream on Tom Cheshire's farm at Lower Hilcote. There were 16 morris men. John G. came for the day on Saturday. The country members, Hugh Gibson, came for the weekend and Nick Oliver for the Sunday: both very welcome. The weather was beautiful, the slight drizzle one morning was very pleasant after the prolonged dry spell this summer. The party included the oldest members, the middle generation and five of the recently joined, all now knit into one side. We danced at Northleach, Aldsworth, Bibury, Withington, Chedworth and Colsbourne. At one Kings Head, Withington, session some relatives of the Shergolds of Bampton were watching. They made very complimentary remarks about TVMM performance and style and backed the remarks with a generous money gift. The whole Sunday evening session was spent at the Seven Tuns, Chedworth - nearly four hours dancing after the early performance proper. It was a sort of workshop for the newly joined and, later, a general dance which ended in a twisted ankle.

The writer, from under his weight of years, can record his opinion that TVMM standard is now high and the special characteristics of the side while dancing, cheerfulness and fun, is very noticeable. Some of the party had to leave early but a sizeable group remained and had a long, pleasant session at the Fox, Great Barrington, savouring the rare and excellent Donnington brew. The last stop at Colesbourne was a little anticlimactical but an afternoon lazing in the sun before packing up and going home left us with a good impression.

It will be noted that, though in the Cotswolds, we did not visit the popular towns (this is in accordance with Ring wishes). We are getting to feel that this small area in the south of the neighbourhood is our patch.

9 - 16th August. The Kingston EFDSS District held its folk dancing holiday at Halsway Manor in Somerset. This was attended by Cyril Smith and Bevis Colmer, Founder member TVMM: Nibs Matthews, Director EFDSS, instructed in morris and sword.

Mention can be made here of TVMM costume. During these months of 1975 five apprentices have been dancing. Mrs E.M. Smith (wife of Cyril Smith) provided for

them almost plain blue baldricks and bell pads. When these men reached a stage where they dance themselves in as full members (as three have already done - as recorded) the baldricks have added to them the remainder of the decoration. Mrs S. has acquired some straw hats and has, very ingeniously, altered and decorated them to match the original ones.

6th September. Digger's tour in the Staines/Chertsey area including an engagement at a fete at Virginia Water. Digger and Pam had all the men, their wives and many other friends to a house warming in their new house at Pyrford.

21st September. Folk Service at Holy Trinity, Claygate. The folk dancers processed to church, the morris men danced before the service. Afterwards there was a small dance party in the church hall. Folk dancers and the rest of the congregation showed a little less enthusiasm than usual for dancing so the dozen or more morris men had ample opportunity to show a good deal of morris.

26th September. Ladies Pleasure at the Ship, Shepperton - where we have had similar parties in the past. About 50 past and present members and their wives and sweethearts attended. We eat, drank, sang and danced: a successful evening.

5th October. At very short notice we were called to add morris to the medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel - the whole affair followed the pattern of the two earlier occasions. We found it as enjoyable, exciting and profitable: we think the diners did, too.

10 - 12 October. The Godshill study weekend. Most of the men attended this camping weekend and under instruction mainly from Jim Brooks and John Glaister put in two full days of hard thinking and dancing. Last year the study produced several almost forgotten dances and one new one (to us) Knuckles Akimbo, Moulton, to add to the current repertory. This year Kirklington Trunkles, Princess Royal, Bidford, and the Wheatley Procession were dredged up from our memories and added to the current list of dances.

Dommett (away teaching morris to women!) could not attend the study but showed up to greet us as we were leaving. Our Wednesday girl fiddler, Miranda Harris, attended and helped greatly with her considerable musicianship.

22nd October. London clubs meeting at Pavours Arms.

24 -26 October. Paris. At short notice, we received and accepted an invitation from the Paris Bretons to visit Rueil-Malmaison to join them in their annual Party. Ten men and Pam (Digger) hired a 12-seater and drove to Paris via Newhaven and Dieppe. At Newhaven we called at the Jolly Sailor. We were welcomed into the homes of the Bretons and attended their terrific party, leaving it at around 4am. Oysters and other characteristic Breton dishes appeared on the menu. The Bretons and the English danced their native dances as items in the long general programme. We returned on Sunday evening. We called again at the Jolly Sailor, Newhaven, where the licensee, a curious old man, served pints of mild beer (no halves, no wines, no spirits) and regaled us with snuff.

29th October. Cyril Smith attended the Elmbridge/Rueil-Malmaison Twinning Guild committee meeting and was able to report on our visit earlier in the week. Great interest was shown in how the visit was arranged and carried out.

1st November. Chiddingfold Bonfire. We assembled, processed, assisted at the bonfire and danced two periods of morris as contracted and paid for. The local side, Cup Hill M.M., had not been engaged (although the committee had been urged to do so by Cyril Smith) and there had been a three-cornered discussion about it before the night. Cup Hill turned up and danced separately. They afterwards wrote to TVMM afterwards in friendly vein.

8th November. A rather ambitious programme. Eight or ten members joined the dancing in connection with the Lord Mayor's Show at Paternoster Square and at an Ale at City University afterwards. The dancing was a little short of completely successful, the numbers of dancers being too great for the space available. It was also very cold.

In the evening seven of us attended a Masonic dinner at the Castle Hotel, Windsor. We danced a morris spot during general dancing. This was a very plush and very enjoyable affair.

The rest of us went over to Forest Row and morrised during the dance 'called' by John G. The dance was in aid of the funds of John's school; we have done this on a number of occasions.

5th December. Pyrford Group's Christmas ceilidh, called by John G. TVMM showed some rapper and Broadwood M.M. performed a mummers' play. Men not at Pyrford met as usual at the Foley.

8th December. The London morris clubs booze-up at the Pavours Arms, Westminster. Eight of us attended and, in the main, enjoyed the dancing. The food, tho poor, was very expensive as also was the beer. We were glad, however, to show the TVMM flag.

13th December. We showed the morris at a very big ceilidh in Islington Town Hall, organised by the Forest Schools Camps to which several of our men belong. We felt our show was successful and enjoyed by the 400 or so people present.

17th December. Andy's office party held in the Elizabethan Room at the Gore Hotel under the shadow of the Albert Hall, Kensington. Eight of us attended – although it was an afternoon affair – and showed morris and rapper. Afterwards we joined the party to eat, drink and sing. Things became a little alcoholic towards evening.

Boxing Day 26th December. The order was Swan, Foley, Hare, Griffin and Winner. Weather fine and dry and, briefly at midday, sunny. The crowds at all the pubs were - well, enormous. Every active dancer in the side was present. Their names are: Jim Brooks, Steve Ashcroft, Jim Barclay, Jim Beard, Tim Beardmore, Neil Cornell, Paul Cooper, David Dearsley, Ron Duncombe, Alan Dean, Amnon Doernburg (our Australian from Perth, Western Australia) John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister, Peter Jones, John Hall, Alun Jones, Peter Keam (present, not dancing - broken arm) Andy Melville, Rick Payne, Derek Paynter, Francis Smith, Cyril Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Malcolm Snowden, Bill Tofts, Mike Vardy and Bill Ellis.

The club has a good number of country members dancing with other sides. We also have a small group of men attending practices who may or may not join the club later. A further group of men have attended a few times but have not continued to do so. Miranda Harris plays her fiddle very regularly for practices and accompanies us on tours. On Boxing Day, however, the seniors, taking the purist view, found themselves unable to allow her to join the musicians. Ron Horsley, who plays at practices and joins us on holiday, played for us on this occasion. He is not regarded yet as a full member. Gordon Smith, formerly our fiddler and now sadly disabled, came to watch and talk to us for a while. Since the weather was good, the dancing and music as enjoyable as ever and the crowds bigger than ever before this Boxing Day can be said to be the best so far. Bag: £102. Afterwards Mervyn and his Ann entertained about ten of us with our wives and children and girls at his home when the morris was over.

1975 has been completely successful. The happiest and most important feature of it has been the integration of the newer members of the club. The spirit we so much enjoy is now fully shared by everyone. From remarks from outsiders we know that our morris is now good, especially, of course, when the senior members are together. The newer men aim at the same standard and will reach it quite soon. The visits from and to Rueil-Malmaison were high lights of the year. The series of shows at the Burford Bridge Hotel medieval banquets were exciting and profitable: They are to continue. The Forest of Dean camp and our week in Jersey were other notable activities.

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Clavgate on Friday 14th November 1975.**

TVMM stood for a moment in memory of George Lawrence and Norman Keam, the two dead members of the club.

1. Present: Mervyn Stanley, Mike Vardy, Bill Tofts, John Hall, Malcolm Snowden, David Dearsley, John Glaister, Jim Brooks, Ron Duncombe, Jim Beard, Andy Melville, Francis Smith, Siward Glaister, Alan Dean, Bill Ellis, Rick Payne, Tim Beardmore, Paul Cooper, Derek Paynter, Peter Jones, Digger Glaister, Robert Atkins and Cyril Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Barclay and Bill Wakefield.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and its adjourned meeting were read and signed.

3. Under Matters Arising it was noted that the bagman had failed to see to the preparation of Christmas cards or to make payments to the Ring and EFDSS as had been resolved at the meeting.

4. Correspondence was read from: the organisers of the fete at Virginia Water; Brian Lever, telling of his move to Kent: Cup Hill M.M. regarding Chiddingfold; Dan Rothenberg of East Surrey M.M. regarding the Guildford Ring meeting 1976; Elmbridge Arts Council; Elmbridge Twinning Guild; Kingston Festival 1976 regarding the festival on 23/24 July 1976; Morris Clubs of London; Morris Ring giving information about club admissions, Camra, Club insurance and subscriptions, agenda for the February reps. Meetin, archival filming, future Ring meetings particularly instructional meetings, Chipperfield meeting, of details of how clubs are chosen for Ring meetings from applicant clubs and the cost categories of Ring meetings; the EFDSS regarding the National Folk Day 26th June 1976, the festival planned for Twickenham 31st May 1976, the Fighting Cocks Folk Club is now a registered club of the EFDSS.

5. Bagman's Report is contained in the Log and was taken as read.
6. Treasurer's Report - given by David. £151 in hand. £500 was spent in expenses including the Ale, Ladies Pleasure and the latest trip to Rueil-Malmaison. The turnover was, therefore, well over those figures. David was thanked for his work as Treasurer and his report accepted. Payments agreed as having been properly made and payments to be made were as follows: Elmbridge Twinning Guild £1, Elmbridge Arts Council £2, to Morris Ring as subscription and insurance premium £2.40 also £5 (in respect of last year) and £10 specifically for the Vaughn Williams Library, Morris Clubs of London £30.
7. Elections. Mervyn Stanley was re-elected squire. Cyril Smith was re-elected bagman. Alun Jones was elected treasurer. David Dearsley was not able to continue as treasurer, to the regret of his clubmates.
8. Squire's Report. Mervyn in the course of his remarks mentioned: team performance; club spirit; punctuality; costume; processional dances; squire's indication to dancers when to dance; language; collections; rapper; fetes. He went on to express gratitude to his team mates. Siward and Bill Tofts also spoke in appreciation of members contribution to club activities.
9. Any Other Business - It was resolved to give up the plan to arrange a morris holiday in Scandinavia next year.  
The meeting adjourned at 10.10pm.

**Minutes of the Adjourned A.G.M. held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 21st November 1975.**

The meeting was taken up with planning for 1976. There was agreement to Alun Jones' suggestion that TVMM should include the mummers' play in its activities. The meeting closed at 10pm.

## **1976 LOG - Thames Valley Morris Men.**

10th January 1976. TVMM were the guests of the Cup Hill Morris Men (Haslemere) at their very successful Ladies Night at the Wey Centre, Haslemere. The bagman of TVMM, calling a dance at nearby Tilford, joined them late in the evening.

18th January. Another very successful performance at the medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel.

19th January. A meeting of the London clubs at the Pavioir's Arms, Westminster.

31st January. John was calling a big country dance at the Dorking Halls: TVMM provided a 'spot' of morris during the evening.

21st. February. Squire and bagman attended the representatives meeting at C. S. House. David Welti (Bedford) was elected squire designate of the Ring.

Wednesday 3rd March. Ron Duncombe and the bagman started a series of instruction meetings for Claygate Cub Scouts with a view to a show at their summer fete.

Tuesday 23rd March. On the initiative of Paul Cooper we decided to show the morris, if invited, to groups of people 'in care'. This evening we morrised at the Woodgate Home for Elderly People in Surbiton. Afterwards, after a drink at the Albert, Kingston, we went on to the Orange Tree, Richmond, for morris and a drink.

Sunday 28th March. Yet another performance at the Burford Bridge Hotel medieval banquet in association with the Forst of Dean Men. Incidentally, some time earlier some TVMM holidaying in Hereford met Forest of Dean Men and went with them to their Ale.

Saturday 3rd April. Seven TVMM enjoyed a good day on the Wheatsheaf Men's tour. With others from Blackheath and Ashdown Forest they morrised at Brixton, Forest Hill and Bromley and had a party at Brasted, Kent.

I

Saturday 20th March. At a Fighting Cocks Folk Club party several TVMM danced jigs.

Thursday 8th April. John Glaister's professional association for teachers at schools for maladjusted children were holding their conference at Brighton. Their party took the form of a barn dance at Sussex University. Twelve TVMM showed morris and rapper at it and scored a great Success.

Saturday 27th March. Tour arranged by Alun and Alan - Staines, Englefield Green and, finally, Shepperton Church Square. Very successful and largely manned by the more recently joined men.

Wednesday 14th April. Mervyn, Alun and CDS attended the London clubs meeting in Westminster. The chief item under discussion was Nine Days Wonder (dance London to Norwich) planned for next Easter (1977).

Weekend of 16 - 19th April (Easter). Visit of the French visitors from Rueil-Malmaison. In a party of 86 nine were our young Breton friends. They were met on the Friday evening and taken to their hosts. On the Saturday, TVMM danced during midday at Laleham pubs in connection with a protest locally about gravel extraction. The Bretons came with us and added their dancing to ours. In the evening the big official party took place at the new Walton Leisure Centre. Bretons and TVMM danced. On Sunday TVMM took their Bretons to dance at midday at Shere. The sunshine, the stream, the willow trees, the dancers and the crowd grouped around the Village centre made a most attractive spectacle at this the prettiest village in Surrey. Afterwards we all went to enjoy the view from Coneyhurst Hill. In the evening we arranged and ran a barn dance at King George's Hall, Esher. Around 100 people, English and French, attended. Ron Horsley provided excellent music and Margaret Horsley called. The calls were translated. The French visitors departed for sight seeing on the Monday. Au revoirs were said but no goodbyes.

Monday 19th April. Siward and Peter Jones entertained some friends in their garden in Byfleet. There being enough morris men present, a little morris was shown.

Friday 23rd April. At lunch 14 men and in the evening around 20 men attended at the Harrow, Thames Ditton (a house belonging to St George's Brewery) to celebrate the saint's day. We danced groups of dances throughout this fairly long day and finished with singing in the crowded pub at the end of it. Chris Ridley, a fine singer, joined us: he was holidaying in Claygate from his home in Cornwall.

Saturday 24th April. This was a big day for TVMM. We had invited Heston Boys, Broadwood, Wheatsheaf, Hartley, East Surrey, Yateley, Pilgrim, Cup Hill and Datchet as guests at our Ale in the Drill Hall, Cobham, in the evening. So many could dance all day we arranged a series of tours, guided by one or two of our men. Yateley toured in at Ripley, Martyrs Green and Cobham; East Surrey and Wheatsheaf danced at Worcester Park and Kingston; Hartley and Broadwood came via Blackbrook and Chessington; TVMM had a tour of their own at Hampton Court, Molesey and Weston Green. All teams met in Kingston Parish churchyard and danced there and around Kingston. This was our traditional gift to the church. Heston Boys joined us. All then went to Claygate for rest, tea and buns. Cup Hill and Datchet joined us at Cobham for the Ale. While in Claygate many morris men took the opportunity to visit Clive Carey's grave in Holy Trinity churchyard, Claygate.

For the Ale, as usual though in much bigger quantity, Bill Wakefield had provided five magnificent sides of beef. Mrs C.D. Smith provided all other food and Alun and Andy had organised a very considerable quantity of beer. There was much dancing and drinking and singing and the party went on beyond midnight. Morris Sutherland, Squire of the Ring, joined us at Kingston and stayed all evening, make a brief speech and dancing his Fool's Jig. Pilgrim failed to turn up.

Saturday 1st May. David's tour in the Farnham area, starting in that town and going out to country pub stops in the middle day. Derek Paynter and Bill Ellis danced themselves in as full members of the side. During the afternoon all the men went to a relative of David's to watch the Cup Final. After two more evening stops, everyone went on to a party with David and his Kathy. Alun Jones danced himself in in the evening.

Because of the prior arrangement of David's tour, TVMM could not Join the Kingston District EFDSS and Fighting Cocks May Day tour of Kingston. Therefore Stag Hill, the Surrey University side, were invited to take their place. TVMM bagman remained in Kingston to help with organisation. Stag Hill toured the town and the country dancers together with Fighting Cocks rapper side made another tour via Chessington and nearby. The country dancers, led by Maurice Courtney, had members of the public joining in the general dancing. After a rest interval at the Fighting Cocks pub, Stag Hill and their women morris dancers had a 'stop' at the Springgrove tavern before all going to an evening barn dance at St John's Hall, Springgrove. Stags Rampant supplied the music and C.D.S. called.

On this May Day also may be mentioned that Bill Tofts, Amnon Doernburg (our Australian member) and his wife attended the Padstow Old Oss ceremonies and stayed in St Columb with Chris Ridley, our country member.

Saturday 8th May. Alun's Richmond tour. Dancing at stops in Twickenham and Hampton Hill we went on to dance at the Fair on Richmond Green. Here we met London Pride and the Kingston District EFDSS country dancers also engaged to take part. We danced afterwards around Richmond, going to the Row Barge, Kingston, the Green at Kew and at the end of the day, Tudor Close, Richmond.

Thursday 13th May. We danced as a private engagement at the North End Tavern, Worcester Park. We shared the entertainment with a 'pop' band with considerable success.

Saturday 15th May. It is faintly interesting to record our only total failure to date. Asked by Mitcham Fair organisers to dance for them at 9.15pm in the evening, we attended, having danced nowhere else, to find everyone except a very noisy pop group, gone home. The evening was very chilly, it was late so, after a few drinks, we went home too.

Saturday 22nd May. TVMM joined, for the day, the weekend of morris arranged by Broadwood M.M. - for whom, John Glaister plays very often. The coach tours started from Horsham and went around pleasant Sussex villages. Other teams present or represented were Martlets, Chanctonbury, Wheatsheaf and Hartley. There was good morris and singing at the Ale.

Sunday 30th May. An evening engagement at the Selsden Park Hotel, Croydon. This is a very swagger hotel and we danced the morris to entertain guests at their aperitif. It proved very successful: the managing director of the hotel company remarking he was delighted. We moved over to the less plushy Duke's Head, Carshalton, for one of our more bibulous evenings.

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May. We provided an item in the Festival held in Marble Hill, Twickenham, under the auspices of the Greater London Council. This should have been an enormous success. As well as TVMM and a strong team of local EFDSS dancers, we had Tatra Polish dancers, a fine section of the London Caledonian Society, with piper, and a big team of girls from Reading who gave excellent Irish dancing. However the rain started at 3pm and persisted throughout the afternoon. All the programme was carried out including general dancing for onlookers in pouring

rain. Most of the 700 crowd stayed to the end so the event need not be written off a failure.

Amnon Doernburg (Perth, Western Australia and TVMM) reported the Australian Ring meeting. Both clubs attended, one travelled 400 miles the other over 2,000 miles.

Saturday 19th June. Apart from the 2 1/2 hours mentioned above, this was the only wet day in many weeks of dry weather! A tour - morning stops at Abinger and Gomshall produced almost no onlookers, little money and, in one case, no dancing. The stop at Shere was hardly any better. The shopping precinct at West Byfleet was better, it being partly covered. Tea at Siward's - although his swimming pool was less attractive than usual. A blank visit to Golden Grove, Lyne, and then on to Hardwick Barn, where John was calling. Here the whole thing came alive and the pent up morris excitement of the day found an outlet. This bit of dancing was one of our high spots.

Thursday 17th June. We were invited to show morris at this, the last of this summer's series of dances at Marble Hill. Ron Horsley was playing in the band and so could supply the music for the five TVMM who were able to attend. We contrived a short, acceptable programme. An extraordinary and memorable incident occurred. During our show a sneak thief entered the changing tent and stole Derek's trousers.

Wednesday 23rd June. Our turn, together with Heston Boys at Westminster Abbey. It followed the usual pattern and had the same degree of success. As before we went off to the Hand in Hand, Wimbledon Common where we found a welcome and big crowds.

Friday 25th June. Nine of us provided a morris spot at another barn dance at Hardwick Barn. Just an ok job.

Saturday 26th June. A very, very strenuous day. Temperatures rose to about 100 degrees nearly all day. Together with Phoenix Folk Club we danced in Walton shopping precinct, the collection going to the Society's National Folk Day. At noon we had a specially successful stop at the Swan, Walton. In the afternoon in sweltering heat we joined in the Leatherhead Festival. Next on to a 'gala' day at the Maori Club, Worcester Park. Here we were able to take showers. We had another stop at the Glyn Arms, Ewell, and finally at the Victoria, Oxshott. On this same afternoon the Claygate Scouts had their fete and the cubs, supervised by Ron Duncombe, danced Bean Setting, Headington. It was said to be a great success.

Saturday 3rd July. Another very strenuous day in this prolonged heatwave. We had pre- and lunch stops at Chobham. Then we went to Woking to take part in their Medieval Whirl. Cup Hill, Pilgrim and Stag Hill had all been engaged to show the morris and, as a result of a certain amount of prior arrangement by TVMM bagman the four clubs combined for massed morris as an arena event. It was very successful. A women's morris side had also been engaged but were not included in the massed morris. After tea with Mervyn and Ann, we had a couple of stops in the Ripley area.

Sunday 4th July. A rather curious Sunday evening tour arranged by Bill Tofts. We danced at an American Picnic at Hurst Park at 5pm and then went on for a show at an old people's home in Hersham. After a drink at the Royal George, Hersham, we gave a

show at a music evening at a private house in Walton. We finished the evening at the picturesque Weir Hotel, Walton, on the river bank.

9 - 11 July. The Chipperfield Ring meeting; Greensleeves being the host club. We had eleven men attending. The meeting proved very successful. TVMM camped. Their companions on the coach tours were Garstang, a Lancashire morris side. All the men got on well together: promises to exchange visits in the future were made. The massed morris by the nine sides attending was very good: TVMM contributing Sherbourne and Oddington. The 'home cooked' feast was excellent and the speeches very short. Unusually there were tours after the feast. The men attended an open air service on Sunday. Later TVMM and Garstang engaged in a mock combat, which was resolved in beer drinking.

Tuesday 13th July. On this day at 4pm eighteen TVMM turned out for filming by Thames Television. This company was making a film of the town of Kingston-upon-Thames and included the morris in a list of nine items. The presenter was the TV personality Monty Modlyn. While the men danced the Upton-on-Severn Stick Dance, the bagman was filmed talking to Modlyn, telling the long association of the morris with Kingston Parish Church. Remarkably, we were able to watch the 'rushes' inside of ten minutes in the nearby TV van. It seems likely few of us will see the finished film as we plan to be in Scotland on the date of showing, 11th August.

Wednesday 14th July. In the Kingston Children's Folk dance festival at Lovelace School, Chessington, three teams danced Flamborough. They had been trained and were played for by Ran Horsley who now plays, more and more, for the morris.

Friday 16th July. On the pressing invitation of the licensee, we danced at the Vines, Chertsey, it being the time of the Cherry Fair of Chertsey. It was pleasant and successful. Later we danced at the much bigger pub in the High St (? the Crown): This was also successful and much rowdier.

I I

Sunday 18th July. As last year, the people of Shere held their Fayre in the Square. We attended and danced for enormous crowds at intervals throughout the day. This is an extremely enjoyable day - the village is so attractive and the weather beautiful. Afterwards the men and families and friends went on to tea in the Miller's fine garden at Farley Green. The morris men were able to indulge their love of that other very English pastime, cricket. Early in the day Phil Underwood danced himself into full membership.

Monday 19th July. Jim Brooks brought the bagman up to date in viewing his morris films. One film was specially interesting in showing the Bampton single step. Another was of the Windsor Women's morris: this confirmed the men in their views on the subject of women's morris.

Tuesday 20 July. At a ceilidh at Gipsy Hill College, Kingston Hill, run in connection with the Kingston Arts Festival '76, TVMM showed morris, Fighting Cocks showed rapper and Medau ladies did their things The District dancers of Kingston EFDSS showed folk dancing and led general dancing. Ron Horsley and Margaret Horsell played, CDS called and several morris men collected money and served drinks.

Wednesday 21st July. At 6.30pm (an awkward time) TVMM carried out their annual commitment to Byfleet Parish Day.

Saturday 24th July. A full day. From 11am to 3pm we danced at five Molesey pubs in connection with the Molesey Arts Festival. Then to Gipsy Hill again to contribute another item to the Arts Festival '76 mentioned above. For tea and a meal we were entertained by Dave Wilson and his wife at their home in Molesey. Dave is not a dancing member but follows the morris and is generous with material for our costumes. We divided the evening between Pope's Grotto, Twickenham, and Tudor Close, Richmond. The latter stop was as successful and boisterous as on other occasions.

25th July Sunday. "Wild Bill" Ellis arranged for TVMM to dance at the Swan, Staines, and the Jolly Farmer, Staines, during the midday licensed hours. The eight men who attended enjoyed the occasion very much indeed. A good deal of 'family' came and the jokes and dancing was very much 'in'.

Sunday 1st August. Arising out of the Molesey Festival, we were invited to show the morris this Sunday evening at the Survey public house, West Molesey. This we did, with great enjoyment and a useful bag. We were joined by a group of three young men playing musical instruments which they had made themselves, in the medieval style.

7 - 14 August. The annual morris holiday spent camping at Attonburn near Yetholm in Roxburghshire. Some of the party assembled there the previous week and went walking in the Cheviot Hills: others stayed on after 14th August. Most travelled up by car but one party of seven adults and a youngster hired a van and travelled together. All had arrived by Saturday and the first visit made to the two pubs in the town. On Sunday we danced at lunch time in Yetholm and then went to Bamburgh Castle. After tea, given freely to the morris men, we returned "home."

On Monday we went to Berwick and danced in the High St. there before and after lunch with the active help of traffic warden and police.

Tuesday saw us in Kelso dancing, again both sides of lunch. We stopped for dancing in Morebattle on our way 'home.' Here Ann Stanley, suffering for some time past with an injured back, found it so much worse she was admitted to hospital in Kelso.

Wednesday was an off day so far as dancing was concerned. Several parties walked over Hownan Law and on to other places of refreshment. Mervyn, visiting his Ann, found she was being moved to a hospital in Galashiels. Mervyn's clubmates, also visiting Ann, were prevented from presenting her with a bouquet when it was discovered the flowers came from the Matron's garden as the men passed.

Thursday we went to Alnwick and danced twice during the middle day.

On Friday we had planned to visit Holy Island but changed this in order to go to Melrose and Galashiels to make it possible to visit Ann. The dancing at both places was most successful - as it was, indeed, at every place during the week. The crowds were big, a great amount of warm interest was evinced in the morris and purse strings were very loose. The week's bag amounted to over £200. On the Friday evening we danced briefly in Town Yetholm before having an extremely noisy ceilidh in the White Swan. At one moment there were in action an accordion, two melodeons, two fiddles, a drum, spoons, a concertina, several whistles and a tambourine. Ron Horsley played himself into the side with a fine version of Sherborne Princess Royal.

Most of the party left our beautiful campsite during Saturday. C.D.S. left his van party to travel with his daughter who had joined us unexpectedly on the Friday. On that Friday morning, too, we had gone to Romany House, and shown the morris there to the old lady residents and had been given coffee.

Apart from Ann's illness, the week had been a great success in every way. This can be judged by the size of the bag - if the amount of money collected be the measure of that success - £217. Ann returned home with her family, having discharged herself from Galashiels hospital. We cleared a car so that she could be carried prone and distributed the gear among the rest of the party.

Wednesday 11th August. Thames Television, London, broadcast a Monty Modlyn feature called "A town called Kingston". In this TVMM had taken a part. All who saw it thought it excellent. The morris lasted about 8 minutes of the 30 minute programme. Attonburn is out of range of Thames Television and so many of us did not see it.

Sunday 22nd August. TVMM met and danced at the Ship, Ripley, on the retirement of the licensee there. 14 men turned out and danced enjoyably.

Wednesday 25th August. On several occasions TVMM have supplied the morris as an item in the entertainment at medieval banquets at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Box Hill. Forest of Dean Morris Men have provided the "play" which runs through the feast. It had been decided that TVMM take over the whole of the entertainment. This was the first rehearsal of it.

Saturday 28th August. This was the occasion of the wedding of Jim Brooks' daughter, Wendy. Some of TVMM delayed joining the main party of TVMM, camping near Withington in the Cotswolds, to dance at the church before and after the ceremony and again later in at the reception at Arbrook Hall, Claygate. It was a very happy occasion.

Meanwhile, the main body of men and families had gone to Hilcot farm and camped. During the Saturday it rained heavily. This interfered with the dancing but not with the enjoyment of the pub stops. We morrised in a brief dry interval in the afternoon at Cirencester. On Sunday TVMM, now joined by the Brooks wedding attenders, danced at the two Withington pubs and in the afternoon at the Roman Viila, Yanworth. The evening was spent at the Seven Tuns, Chedworth, but inside because of heavy rain. It was a noisy enjoyable evening, nonetheless. On the Monday we danced at Northleach and morrised and lunched at the Fox, Great Barrington. This is a Donnington pub and the beer superb. Most of the party left for home in the afternoon.

Saturday 4th September. Digger's tour, dancing at Marlow, Turville, Stadhampton, Abingdon and Radcott (near Bampton). This was an unusual series of stops and most successful. The party was rather small but enjoyed a lot of dancing. The party at the last stop was, as so often, hilarious.

On the same evening, a team of men not able to go on the tour, undertook an engagement, coming to us from John Monson of London Clubs and an agent, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London. We occupied about 15 minutes of a programme including Scotch, Irish and Welsh at this extremely plush West End hotel. The company, dining and being entertained, were about a thousand American insurance representatives. We moved on to the Dove, Hammersmith, for beer and conversation.

Saturday 11th September. TVMM attended in good numbers one day of the weekend Ring meeting organised by East Surrey, based on the University of Surrey, Stag Hill, Guildford. We joined with East Surrey and Heston Boys for the pleasant day tour ending at Tunsgate Square, Guildford. During the massed dancing there Morris Sutherland danced himself out as Squire of the Ring and David Jelti of Bedford danced himself into that office. Most of TVMM stayed on to feast at the University, with dancing and drinking and conversation later. Trigg MM attended this meeting and we, therefore, had with us two former clubmates, Christopher Penton and Christopher Ridley.

Sunday 12th September. We took part in the entertainment at a medieval banquet at Burford Bridge Hotel, Box Hill. On this occasion TVMM undertook the whole show - although four of the former entertainers from the Forest of Dean attended to guide us through an afternoon rehearsal and support during the meal. Several of us took parts in the medieval play which ran during the evening, extra roles were played by some of our ladies and musicians from other folk groups. The evening was judged a success by the hotel manager and many of the diners. We were booked to carry out another performance in December next.

Tuesday 7th September. As on an earlier occasion John Glaister was calling a dance at Sussex University near Brighton. Seven TVMM travelled down to provide a morris spot during the evening.

Saturday 18th September. Stephen Ashcroft's tour - starting at Colliers Wood going on to the Hand in Hand, Wimbledon Common, and the Alexandra, Wimbledon. The men danced at a fete for Steve's church. After tea at Paul's, stops were made at Richmond Green and riverside and finished at Tudor Close, Richmond. We had only a small team out and relied entirely on Jim Beard's fiddle for music (a notable effort) but the tour was a success.

Sunday 19th September. Seven of us, Mervyn and Peter playing, showed morris at a private house garden party in Woking in aid of the funds for Ookenden Venture. This was our small effort for a charity but was enjoyed by all of us.

Paul Cooper is at present teaching some Wolf Cubs a couple of morris dances to perform at their Scout group party.

Saturday 25th September. TVMM joined other clubs in accepting an invitation to Yateley by the fairly newly formed Yateley Morris Men (Our Ted Dowling was largely responsible for their formation and instruction). We met and danced with East Surrey at Ottershaw and Windlesham, went on to dance at Camberley Shopping Centre. We joined Yateley, Greensleeves, Pilgrim and East Surrey for tea at Yateley. There was massed dancing on Yateley green after tea and a very enjoyable Ale with Yateley in the evening.

Friday 1st October - Sunday 3rd. The Godshill study weekend. This was very well attended, valuable and enjoyable. As well as remembering and polishing known dances (Trunkles, Oddington, for example) Ducklington and Ascot-under-Wychwood were added to TVMM repertory. Roy Dommett came for the Saturday. This was as

heroic as it was valuable: he travelled with Margarite and three of their children by PSV to Fordingbridge and walked the rest of the way. While the men were in the pub in the evening, an elderly gentleman in the bar quietly died - a sad little incident.

Tuesday 12th October. As guests of the PTA at the school in Cobham where Malcolm's wife is a teacher, we showed the morris to an appreciative audience.

Saturday 16th October. Thaxted Morris Men, with Morris Sutherland fooling, were seen dancing at Holy Trinity, Claygate, church hall at a private wedding party.

Wednesday 20th October. We morrised at a school party at Hounslow. Many children were among the audience, which, it must be admitted, seemed less interested than usual.

Friday 22nd October. AGM at the Foley, Claygate.

Friday 29th October. Adjourned AGM where planning was carried a little further.

Saturday 30 October. An extraordinary meeting of reps. of the Morris Ring was called by the Ring Squire, David Welti, at Birmingham. Alun Jones and C.D. Smith attended as reps. of TVMM. A wide range of subjects was discussed in a rather ragged, apparently purposeless debate. Women's 'morris, club admissions and non-associated clubs engendered most heat. However, afterwards in the Australian Bar, TVMM and Wheatsheaf settled down and drew up the first outlines of a set of proposals for altering Ring rules in an attempt to meet all the complaints that had been made that day.

Monday 1st November. Among other things discussed at the meeting of the London clubs was the Nine Daies Wonder plans. These had reached a satisfactorily advanced stage.

Friday 5th November. Little practice was put in - except by a small group of Tony Pegram's Heston Boys - at the Foley. Andy was celebrating his birthday and Paul Cooper was drinking his farewells with his clubmates before his departure the following week for a year at a kibbutz: we regret his absence but hope very much the experience will be valuable and enjoyable. Late in the evening we sent a section to dance at a school at Leatherhead. We learnt on arrival they had not expected us because they had phoned to say they could not afford us! The bagman had 'boobed' in some way. However, we danced and drank and talked and it was all quite pleasant.

Saturday 6th November. TVMM provided some morris as an item in a very grand Scottish Festival at Epsom Baths. A group from Boulogne also appeared. Also a group of young modern dancers from Guildford. The London branch of the Scottish country dance group performed wonderfully: the bagpipes were very loud.

Friday 3rd December. The Pyrford group Christmas party. We danced some morris - with great difficulty on account of the extremely slippery floor.

Friday 10th December. We had decided not to be represented at the London clubs 'booze up' at Watford.

Saturday 11th December. Our Ladies Pleasure at the Drill Hall, Cobham. Around 80 men and their ladies attended and enjoyed country dancing, eating, drinking and David Wilson's discoteque. The excellent food was provided by an outside caterer. The party went on beyond midnight.

During this weekend the bagman attending at Findon, Sussex, a folk weekend arranged by Kingston EFDSS District found himself instructing in morris and rapper.

Thursday 16th December. The local CAMRA group had a party at the Victoria, Surbiton. The leading local representative, Andy, had a side of us there and they danced the morris.

Saturday 18th December. Andy's rugby club had a money raising party at Merton. We danced the morris at it.

Monday 27th December (Boxing Day): The annual tour of the Claygate pubs. The weather was dry with a little wintry sunshine and the temperature no lower than could be expected in December. We started at the Winning Horse where our friend the licensee gave us hot toddy. The crowd here was big - bigger than usual at this spot - and throughout the morning tour they increased. We estimate we danced for more than 800 people. If Mervyn's young son, St John, who helped with the music right through, be counted, we had thirty men out as well as at least three apprentices who came to watch. At the Foley Tim Lloyd danced himself into full membership. At the Hare and Hounds Mervyn danced himself out of the office of Squire and Francis danced himself into it. At the Griffin, Amnon, returned from Australia only two days previously, danced himself in as a member of Thames Valley - although he plans to return to Perth, Western Australia almost at once. We finished at the Swan. The bag amounted to £128.

Sunday 26th December. We carried through the whole entertainment at the Medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel. It was a success.

The year has been an extremely good one. The fairly recent joiners - of the last year or two - have become totally absorbed into the spirit and comradeship of this club. The even newer ones attend regularly the Wednesday night sessions at the Foley. They number five or six and make progress.

The outline suggestions for reorganising the Morris Ring produced by C.D.S, Alun Jones of TVMM and Paul Phillips of Wheatsheaf and supported by both clubs may turn out to be an important piece of this year's activity.

Among the notably successful events of the year may be mentioned the visit of the Bretons at Easter time and the good day we spent with them at Shere; our 'day' in April when several clubs joined us for the day; our part in the four-club demonstration in the Woking Whirl (this was not thought important by the men but its arranger and watcher from a high tower, the bagman, feels this was an important piece of morris in that the clubs were brought together and danced very effective massed morris without any rehearsal); our appearance on Thames Television as part of a feature called "A

town called Kingston"; the especially successful morris holiday at Attonburn, near Yetholm, in August.

#### **MEMBERS OF THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN AT JANUARY 1977.**

Stephen Ashcroft, Robert Atkins (apprentice), Jim Barclay, Lester Bailey (apprentice), Tim Beardmore, Jim Beard, Jim Brooks, Neil Cornell, Paul Cooper (at present in Israel), Graham Beresford (apprentice), David Dearsley, Ron Duncombe, Alan Dean, Amnon Doernburg (shortly returning to Australia), Bill Ellis, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Martin (Digger) Glaister, John Hall, Ron Horsley, John Israel, Peter Jones, Alun Jones, Tim Lloyd, Andy Melville, Rick Payne, Derek Paynter, John Rodd (apprentice and Albion musician), Francis Smith, Cyril Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Malcolm Snowdon, Bill Tofts, Graeme Thompson (apprentice), Phil Underwood (also of Men of Wight), Mike Vardy, David Bartle-Wilson (apprentice), Bill Wakefield.

#### **COUNTRY MEMBERS:**

Christopher Penton and Christopher Ridley (Trigg), Peter Dashwood (Staploe Hundred and EFDSS) Hugh Gibson and Dick Musson (Taunton Deane), Stan Kilby and Nick Oliver (Faithful City, Worcester) Keith Haynes (Ellington), Ted Dowling (Yateley and Greensleeves), Laurie Mosley (Sweyn's Eye), Eric Foxley (Nottingham), Bevis Colmer (unattached, living at Gomshall), Martin Jolley (East Surrey but a founder of Thames Valley).

In the first apprentice practice in Boxing Day week, four complete novices attended. Names so far unknown.

#### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

##### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on 22nd October 1976.**

Members of the club stood for a moment in memory of George Lawrence and Norman Keam.

1. An apology for absence was received from Bill Wakefield (ill).
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.
3. There was no matters arising from the minutes.
4. Correspondence: Notice of the Birmingham Ring meeting noted (arising out of this, our reps. were instructed to put forward the idea of circulating a Newsletter to associated clubs); it was agreed to dance, without charge, at Hardwick Barn next June in gratitude for the gift of 15 pairs of white trousers: the correct date of Paternoster Square dancing to 13th November (made necessary by bagman's mistake) was noted; dates and plans relating to London club activities, particularly the projected Nine Daies Wonder, next Easter, were discussed; the Ring circular was considered, including the increase in subscriptions, increase in insurance cover, Chanctonbury Men's motion to the reps. annual meeting; Ring Meetings (arising out of this it was resolved to offer nomination to the Ring Advisory Council to Roy Dommett and Christopher Penton, Ring Squire's message and list of common dances; the offer of Thames Television offer to show the film "A town called Kingston."
5. Bagman's Report: This is contained in the Log and taken as read.
6. Treasurer's Report. Alun Jones gave a full and detailed report. In hand last year £10, turnover this year £1,600, in hand £310. Affiliations and donations were discussed and arising out of this the following authorisation for payments were made:

Elmbridge/Rueil Malmaison Twinning Guild £1; Elmbridge Arts Council £2 (it was resolved to renew our affiliation to this organisation); Ring sub. and insurance premium £2.75; English Folk Song and Dance Society, specifically for use in the Sound Library, £20; Morris Ring a sum to be decided on and paid by our reps. in the light of debate at the next reps. meeting; Morris Clubs of London, £3; cost of attendance of two reps. to the Birmingham Ring meeting. It was decided that generally, but not invariably, the cost of attendance at Ring and some other events to be borne wholly by the club. Alun was thanked for his preparation of the Report.

7. Squire's Report: Mervyn Stanley spoke of the year's activities, of costume, of presentation of the morris and thanked club members, some by name, for their support.

8. Elections: Mervyn Stanley, Francis Smith, Andy Melville and Digger Glaister received nominations to the office of Squire. As a result of a ballot (STV) Francis was elected. He spoke briefly in gratitude.

9. Membership: Notice was given of full membership to Derek Paynter, Alun Jones, Phil Underwood, Bill Ellis and Ron Horsley. The list of apprentice members is: Amnon Doernburg, Tim Lloyd, Dave Wilson, Graham Beresford, Graeme Thompson, Robert Atkins and Lester Bailey.

10. Planning: It was decided not to accept an invitation to dance at Easter at the Selsdon Park Hotel in view of our intention to take part in the Nine Daies Wonder. It was decided, provisionally, to join the trip to Rueil Malmaison in June next. Other plans were left to a planning meeting.

11. Motions: It was resolved, by a majority, to apply for affiliation to the English Folk Dance and Song Society as a registered club (sub. £7.50).

A motion to change the club costume was put off to next year.

12. Under Any Other Business: Jim Barclay pressed for more information to be passed to members unable to attend practices regularly.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30pm and its continuation as a planning meeting fixed for the following Friday 29th October 1976.

Present: \_Jim Brooks, Jim Barclay, Jim Beard, Lester Bailey, Tim Beardmore, Paul Cooper, David Dearsley, Ron Dunccombe, Amnon Doernburg, Bill Ellis, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister, Peter Jones, Alun Jones, Tim Lloyd, Andy Melville, Rick Payne, Malcolm Snowdon, Bill Tofts, Mike Vardy, David Wilson, Derek Paynter, Francis Smith, Cyril Smith, Mervyn Stanley. Other members not present were: Stephen Ashcroft, Robert Atkins, Neil Cornell, Alan Dean, John Hall, Ron Horsley, Phil Underwood and Bill Wakefield.

#### **MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE FOLEY HALL, CLAYGATE, ON FRIDAY 14th JANUARY 1977.**

The whole evening was spent working out plans for 1977. Under A.O.B. Ring reorganisation scheme, Ring AGM agenda, Wednesday practices and photographs were mentioned briefly.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

(Signed) Francis Smith.

## **1977 LOG    Thames Valley Morris Men**

Saturday 15th January. A party of about 20 men and their women attended the Ladies Night of Cup Hill Morris Men at the Wey Centre, Haslemere. Very enjoyable. On the same evening a smaller party were the guests at a party held by Surrey Beekeepers at Ewell Court. Our hostess was Mrs Furness, instrumental in getting us to Krov five years ago. The many kinds of home made wine were grand: we tried the lot and danced brilliantly.

20 - 22 January. We morrised briefly in the intervals of the three performances of a pantomime by the Pyrford Players at their village hall. This was not a good arrangement but we found solace at the Ship, Ripley.

25th January. A meeting of the London clubs where the chief business was the ongoing preparations for the Nine Daies Wonder.

29th January. After a pleasant session at the Plough, Blackbrook, we morrised at John Glaister's dance in the Dorking Halls - a great success.

16 February. Meeting of the London clubs.

18th February. John called and morris men played for a rugby club dance at the laboratory, New Haw. We also morrised. This was also a big success, attendance being about four times the expected one.

Saturday 19th February. Alun Jones and Cyril Smith represented TVMM at the morris reps. meeting at C.S.House. This was a long, lively meeting which attempted to deal with the various proposals for reorganising the Ring. Time ran out, our own proposals were not reached and the debate is to be resumed at an adjourned meeting.

Sunday 20th February. At very short notice because the hotel had failed to notify us we again supplied the entertainment at a medieval banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel. With Ron Horsley's music we think we have got this thing right. Diners numbered 146.

Friday 25th February. Entertainment yet again for the medieval banquet at Burford Bridge Hotel - part of a sort of crash programme. The music this time was from the Campbell players of medieval instruments at Morley College. The 104 diners were rowdy and unappreciative.

Thursday 3rd March. Jim Brooks' son-in-law showed the "A Town called Kingston film at a dance class at Arbrook Hall, Claygate.

Friday 4th March. The film was shown again to TVMM and some Heston Boys at the practice at the Foley Hall, Claygate. Jim Brooks also showed his morris film which includes TVMM, Heston Boys, Bampton, Windsor Women and shots of the East Surrey Ring meeting.

Saturday 12th March. Cup Hill Ale. As on earlier occasions TVMM enjoyed this party. It was marred, however, by an accident to "Mitch" of Cup Hill. He fell and broke his wrist. This injury took months to mend.

Saturday 26th March. The first tour of the year - in the Twickenham area - arranged by Alun and finishing, riotously, at the Tudor Close, Richmond.

Wednesday 30th March. Jim Beard's friend, librarian at Hook Library, holds afternoon gatherings for children at the library. TVMM provided a speaker and a demonstration team for this occasion. We finished the session with some country dancing.

1 - 3 April. Crowlink - including morris and rapper workshops.

7 - 11 April. Morris Clubs of London Nine Daies Wonder. This event called for a great deal of organisation in which TVMM took a share, Alun Jones serving on the organising committee. It commemorated the feat of Will Kempe, a clown in Shakespeare's company, who, over 30 days, spent 9 of them morrissing from London to Norwich. He afterwards published a description of the exploit and thus the modern morris men were able to repeat his adventure - although a relay of teams traversed the distance in four days whereas Kempe danced it alone accompanied only by his musician.

Fifteen morris clubs took part, dancing about 5 miles each. Beaux of London City set off on Maundy Thursday afternoon, having received an illuminated message from the Lord Mayor of London which they handed on to the next club at the end of their section. Gatherings of morris men and other dancers took place at the end of each day and the journey was taken up at about 8am each morning.

TVMM's section was from Long Melford to Cavendish at about midday on the Saturday. The weather was very mixed but the sun shone brightly during our passage. We had 18 men out, danced well and kept good time. We handed over to the Earls of Essex M.M. just as the weather broke. The Earls danced their stretch in a snow blizzard.

TVMM spent the weekend camping in a paddock at the back of Peter Dashwood's home at Wickhambrook, Suffolk. The weather was bitterly cold and some of the party took refuge in Peter's house. Cyril Smith accompanied the dancers throughout the weekend, driving an escort vehicle.

By arrangement, of course, the last London team were met 5 miles from Norwich by the local morris men, Kempe's Men, who finished the journey. One of their number leapt the wall - as Will did in 1599 - and handed over the message from London to the Lord Mayor of Norwich.

Massed morris followed, then drinking, then eating a "sumptuous repast" in a very handsome hall in Norwich. More morris and then home. The whole thing was a complete success and received publicity nationwide.

Saturday 16th April. Walton-on-Thames Goose Fair. As on a previous occasion Bridge St., is closed to traffic and, with the pubs open all day, given over to a day long party. TVMM attended and danced morris at intervals.

Saturday 23rd April. St Georges Day, Hocktide and Ale. We arranged tours along routes into Kingston for ourselves and our guest clubs - Wheatsheaf, East Surrey,

Yateley and Heston Boys. We all joined together to dance in and around Kingston. And, being hocktide, at Kingston Parish Church. Tea was arranged for as many as would in Claygate. Yet again we had our Ale in the Drill Hall, Cobham where we were joined by friends and members of other clubs including Cup Hill and Grand Union, a very new club. John Monson of London Pride and bagman of the London Clubs was also with us.

Saturday 30th April. As part of May Day celebrations we joined with the EFDSS District dancers, Fighting Cocks rapper dancers and others on tours into Kingston. We had massed dancing in the market place.

During this weekend the Elmbridge Twinning Guild entertained visitors from Rueil-Malmaison. On Saturday evening, Cyril Smith, a member of the Twinning Guild committee, attended the big celebration party at Walton.

Sunday 1st May. Early, TVMM attended service and danced at Oatlands Parish Church (Bill Tofts). Then we went on to the Plough, Worcester Park, to join the May Day celebrations. In the evening we helped Phoenix Folk dancers and the Twinning Guild to entertain the French visitors from Rueil at a barn dance at King George's Hall, Esher.

Friday 6th May. TVMM assisted at the re-opening of a pub in Walton-on-Thames, during the midday hours [The Swan]. In the evening we morrised at Pyrford's Spring Fling.

Saturday 7th May. We morrised as well as helping with dancing arrangements at a fete on the Halfway Green, Hersham [Ashley Arms]. Later in the day we had two sessions at pub in Staines.

Saturday 14th May. Broadwood Day. We had a good turnout to accompany Broadwood M.M. on their tour of Sussex villages and to attend their Ale in the evening.

Sunday 15th May. This was the first of our Sunday lunch time dances aimed at financing our trip to Rueil later in the year. We assembled and danced at the Ashley Arms and then went on to the Oak, Walton. The sight of the Goat riding pillion on Graeme's motorbike caused a small stir in Walton High St.

Saturday 21st May. Rick's tour around the Woking area.

Sunday 22nd May. For Paris funds, we danced during the midday at Shere. We had tea and rounders at the Miller home in Farley Green. In the evening some apprentices with Phil playing danced at the Black Horse, Gomshall and the Volunteer, Abinger.

27 - 29 May. TVMM had a small party at the Taunton Deane M.M. weekend. So much so that, had it not been for the help of our country members now resident in the west country, we would not have had a complete side. The weekend was enjoyable apart from what we thought were the over-long coach journeys.

3 - 5 June. Forest of Dean family weekend. This followed its usual enjoyable pattern. We toured with two north country teams. Returning on Sunday night we were able to be home for the local jubilee celebrations.

Monday 6th June. TVMM contributed morris to the folk dance festival at Marble Hill, Twickenham, and then went off to Morden to perform at Andy's cricket club.

Tuesday 7th June. We assembled at the Hare and Hounds, Claygate, danced there and then intended to join a procession. However the crowd remained at the Hare and so did we. Then we went off to dance at a street party at Cheam. Later in the evening we went to the Otter, at Ottershaw, where we found the crowd especially warm.

10 - 12 June. This weekend we had two expeditions. One group attended the Hartley M.M. weekend in the north of Kent. As well as enjoying the tours and the Feast, they were glad to meet teams not encountered before.

The second group went to Rueil-Malmaison under the aegis of the Twinning Guild. They travelled with the Hersham Rovers football team and attended a fete du sport. The hospitality and food and company were, as always, wonderful. Transport trouble on the way home proved a little tedious.

Saturday 18th June. Mike Vardy's tour - Cheam and neighbourhood, then over to a fete at Fetcham. Then back to Ewell. This was a difficult tour because of shortage of numbers. The result was exhaustion.

Wednesday 22nd June. Chris Harris, the actor, gave his one man show based on Will Kempe's dance to Norwich. This show was for television and the audience was of morris men and their ladies. Several TVMM attended.

Friday 24th June. Several months ago a lady gave us 15 pairs of white trousers. In return we undertook to dance at her party at Hardwick Barn, Lyne. We would have done so, anyway, because John G. was the caller. The trousers proved not very useful being wrong in both fit and style!

Saturday 25th June. Diaries show morris at Worcester Park on this day but no one has any recollection of it! ["Jim Beard's tour inc Worcester Park and a wedding"]

Saturday 2nd July. During the midday we had two teams out. The seniors went on Siward's tour in the Byfleet area while the Wednesday Lot danced, very successfully, for the Molesey Festival. Both parties joined at Siward's home for Jenny's strawberry tea and then went off to the evening tour.

Friday 8th July. TVMM supplied two spots of morris at a beer festival at Tadworth. We also sang and drank beer, -a lot of beer. Well it was a beer festival.

Saturday 9th July. We sent a team to morris at a party at Pam Barclay's school at Carshalton. This was all we did on this occasion. As usual, we enjoyed it.

Sunday 10th July. As on other occasions we morrised at the very big sports meeting at Laleham, Staines.

Saturday 16th July. TVMM do not dance too often in Claygate: we do not wish to wear out our welcome. This year is unusual in that we danced in Claygate for the Queen's Jubilee and, on this day, we were specially asked to dance at the Claygate Flower Show because our member, Ron Duncombe, is this year's president. Additionally this is the 25th anniversary of TVMM's birthday at the 1952 Flower Show. In the evening, Andy took us off for a tour in the Worcester Park area.

Sunday 17th July. Another Sunday lunch dance for Paris funds at the Otter, Ottershaw.

Saturday 24th July. As last week - but this time at Pope's Grotto, Twickenham.

30 July - 6th August. This year's morris holiday was arranged for us by David Wilson, Alun Jones and Peter Davis in Hubberholme, Upper Wharfedale - they having spent a weekend earlier in the year in Yorkshire fixing it up. The main party travelled up in a hired 12 seater, calling at the Brahms and Liszt, Leeds, en route. The pleasant campsite was high up Wharfedale at Hubberholme. On Sunday we had a local lunch stop. Alun Jones and Cyril Smith, however, travelled over to Harrogate to join the Boar's Head M.M. as well as to make other calls.

The central feature of the holiday took place, perhaps oddly, on the Monday with a big and very successful series of dances of morris in the area under the west front of York Minster. We had many onlookers, the weather was glorious and we think we excelled ourselves in performance. Peter Davis danced himself into full membership. On the way 'home' we called at Ramsdens, the biggest fish and chip shop in the world. Later we paused at a pub in Okley where a team of Boar's Head M.M. joined us. On Tuesday we went up Wharfedale and over to Hawes. Here we danced several times during the day and at the end were shown the rushes of a complete film shot by the warden of the youth club. It is an excellent film, good enough for instruction purposes.

Wednesday saw us in it Bronte country at Haworth. As well as dancing we went sight seeing. This included a short ride on the local railway (restored). The Goat rode on the footplate of the engine.

Thursday, the off day, was the only wet day of the week:

Friday's scene was at Skipton. We danced several times during the day to big, interested crowds. Travelling back to Wharfedale we danced at a pub which we found was a centre of folk singing and playing. Despite the distance some of us returned later in the evening for the show there.

The morris party broke up on the Saturday. All were very grateful to David for all his very good arrangements: they could not have been improved. Half the party drove further north to our old campsite at Attonburn near Yetholm. Some of us lazed there in glorious sunshine. Siward took off into the hills for three days light camping. Cyril Smith took David Wilson to Berwick for the train to Edinburgh, collecting him again on Wednesday,

Thursday 18th August. A folk dance for a big party of foreign students from several countries was arranged at Ottershaw Village Hall. TVMM provided music and caller for folk dancing and also some morris.

Saturday 20th August. Alun Jones organised an evening tour of the pubs in the wide spread area of Windlesham. It is in the area of Pilgrim M.M. and a rather uncomfortable exchange of messages had taken place beforehand. An added factor was the existence in Windlesham of a women's "morris" side. We carried out our tour: Pilgrim danced at another pub. Francis went across and had friendly conversations with Pilgrim and the women.

Sunday 21st August. Lunch time morris at the Goat, Halliford.

27 - 29 August. Our autumn weekend in the Cotswolds at Hilcote, Withington. It followed its usual very enjoyable pattern. On this occasion we were invited to dance inside the grounds of the Roman Villa at Chedworth: most morris teams are kept outside. The weather was lovely throughout and the party big. Hugh Gibson and Nick Oliver joined us as usual. At one stop an elderly gentleman came on us and remarked: "This is my morris club." He did not know any of the men till he met Hugh. It was Ted Perry, a founder member. He dropped out of the club some years ago with an injured back. We suffered bovine depredations at the campsite.

Wednesday 31st August. The Royal Oak, New Malden, has been rebuilt. TVMM attended during midday the fairly elaborate re-opening ceremony.

Sunday 10th September. Sunday lunch time morris at Church Square, Shepperion.

Saturday 10th September. Digger laid on rather hastily but very successfully an evening tour of Weybridge, New Haw and Ripley.

Wednesday 14th September. TVMM's turn at Westminster Abbey, the last of this year's series. All went well, as also did the later stop at the Hand in Hand, Wimbledon Common.

Thursday 15th September. The Royal Oak, New Malden again. It was someone's party. At the same time, Jim Beard and John Rodd and their Garage Band were playing at a party in the Nurses Home, Kingston Hospital. The Royal Oak party joined them later. This nurses party was the first of several.

Friday 23rd September. Mervyn's wife, Ann, had secretly arranged a party to celebrate his 40th birthday at the Vandals' Club, Walton. All TVMM were involved but the secret was kept. Merv led a morris show elsewhere and then, cursing the bagman for accepting engagements without prior notice, took them off to Walton where the rest of TVMM, our ladies and Merv's many friends watched his astonishment and delight. The party was a wonderful and wild one.

Saturday 24th September. Yateley M.M. Day. We toured with other guest clubs and joined with others and Yateley for massed morris in that village and, later, the very enjoyable Ale.

30th September - 2nd October. Godshill study weekend, happily this year led by Ray Dommett and Jim Brooks.

On Saturday 1st October because TVMM were absent at Godshill, the Burford Bridge Hotel medieval banquet was "staffed" by the Forest of Dean players and the Cup Hill M.M. by arrangement with the TVMM bagman.

Saturday 15th October. Cyril Smith and Alun Jones travelled to Stafford to represent TVMM at the adjourned reps meeting of the Ring. They failed to get the meeting to accept the Wheatsheaf/TVMM proposals for Ring reorganisation. Another set of proposals will be presented at the next annual reps meeting next February.

Sunday 16th October. The first of a series of Sunday morning practices to prepare a rapper team. Additionally a number of our ladies and others met, also in the Foley Hall, Claygate, to learn clog dancing. In the evening we danced a morris interlude at a banquet at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Belgravia.

Tuesday 18th October. The Wednesday Lot accepted an engagement to show the morris at a fairly elaborate W.I. party at Great Bookham. With John G's music they acquitted themselves well although having to cope with an extremely slippery floor. The supper was very good, too.

Friday 21st October. Burford Bridee Hotel, this time with TVMM supplying the morris to the Forest of Dean players.

Saturday 22nd October. TVMM 25th anniversary party. We all assembled with our families and many friends at the Arbrook Hall, Claygate. Founder members Cyril Smith, John Glaister, Gordon Ralph and Bevis Colmer (of Gomshall) were joined by Ted Perry, Chris Ridley (all the way from Bodmin), Hugh Gibson (from Somerset) members in our very early days. Christopher Penton, we understand, failed to get back in time from Siberia. David Welti, squire of the Ring, and Colin Fleming, chairman of the London Clubs, were with us. These and our wide circle of friends numbered about 130. The food, supplied by Pam and Digger and Mrs E.M. Smith, was magnificent: we had plenty to drink. At one point when everyone present who could play an instrument gathered on the platform we had nearly as many players as dancers. Francis, our squire, took the opportunity to make the presentation to all our past squires the gift of an engraved tankard (except Cyril Smith, who had chosen a walking stick). He also spoke about the club's history, about our gratitude to many friends and about our hopes for the future. The party was said to be entirely successful.

Saturday 29th October. TVMM accepted an invitation from the Royal Albert M.M. to a beer and skittles party at Wallingford. We greatly enjoyed the adventure, some of us staying on overnight to avoid driving home having drink taken.

Saturday 5th November. On this day Wheatsheaf had a day of instruction. We found ourselves unable to send a party. Nevertheless, Alun, Dave and Peter Davis slipped over to Brixton for the evening.

Thursday 10th November. Another nurses home party at Kingston.

Saturday 12th November. The morris clubs of London played their now regular part in the Lord Mayor's Show. Alun Jones played a leading part in the arrangements.

After assembly at the City University a number of clubs danced in two parties in Paternost Squaret E. In the afternoon all foregathered with families and friends at the University for eating and morris and folk dancing. Cyril Smith and Alan ? of Herga shared the calling.

Friday 18th November. Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 29th November. Meeting, Lcndon clubs.

Friday 2nd December. Grosvenor House Hotel at midnight. Our performance, tho very brief, was well received.

Monday 5th December. Another midnight performance, this time at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Bayswater. Our employers, Lipton Enterprises, asked us, for this occasion, to do rapper and a stick dance. Our Sunday morning practices paid off and the rapper proved as acceptable as the Upton-on-Severn Stick Dance.

Wednesday 7th December. During December, London morris clubs, in turn, danced at the Dickens Inn, Katherine's Dock, E. On this evening the Wednesday Lot took TVMM's turn. Weather and traffic were appalling but we made it and showed the morris in a very crowded bar.

Friday 9th December. Adjourned AGM to plan for 1978.

Monday 12th December. TVMM again helped Francis' Margaret at her club for mentally handicapped at Woking.

Thursday 15th December. Surbiton branch of Camra held a club night at the Victoria, Surbiton, and TVMM joined them with some morris.

Saturday 17th December. TVMM had a big party at the London clubs booze-up at Brixton. They watched disapprovingly some very odd morris and saw the film of the Nine Daies Wonder. This latter fell a little short of expectations, too.

16 - 18 December. Kingston EFDSS weekend at Findon. Morris and rapper instruction given to the music of Ron Horsley. He, Ron, managed to get himself locked out of the guest house one night and, in alcoholic haze, returned to Claygate for a few hours.

Sunday 18th December. A number of TVMM and their folk singing and playing friends use the Bell, Molesey, on a Sunday. This was one of a series.

Boxing Day 26th December. The weather was dry and warm. The crowds at each stop - Swan, Foley, Hare, Griffin and Winner in that order - were bigger than ever. The bag was the biggest so far - £147. The number of men out, too, was the biggest. One wonders a little how far this progression can go! Graeme Thompson danced himself in a.t the Foley and Cyril Smith, a month short of his 74th birthday - danced himself into retirement at the Hare. However, leaving a little early with the Wednesday Lot to get in a little extra dancing at the Griffin, he emerged from retirement about 15 minutes after entering it. Phil Williams danced himself in at the Hare.

The best Boxing Day yet, of course. It was a fitting end to an entirely successful year which was so busy as to border at times on the frantic. The reaching of a high standard of morris dancing remains the preoccupation of every man in the club. At best TVMM can produce the finest morris. Young men continue to join the band of apprentices and one after another go into the main side. Occasionally a man from another club turns up - Jan Lucas from Bangor, John Howe from the Beaux and Angus Stewart from Cambridge.

Andy Melville produces at about two monthly intervals a most useful and very amusing Newsletter. It is continuing links with our country members.

The Nine Daies Wonder, the Rueil-Malmaison visits, the Yorkshire holiday, the series of very lucrative hotel engagements and the 25th anniversary party in October were all notable highlights of 1971.

1978 will also be full of enjoyable morris.

### **THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 18th November 1977.**

1. TVMM remembered for a moment George Lawrence and Norman Keam.
2. Present were Steve Ashcroft, Lester Bailey, David Wilson, Andy Melville, Jan Lucas, Paul Cooper, Malcolm Snowdon, Alan Dean, Peter Haveland, Digger Glaister, Bill Tofts, Jim Brooks, John Glaister, Rick Payne, Peter Jones, Mike Vardy, Siward Glaister, Derek Paynter, Jim Beard, Mervyn Stanley, Cyril Smith, Francis Smith, Alun Jones, John Hall. Apologies were received from Ron Horsley, Ron Duncombe, David Dearsley, Gordon Smith and Phil Underwood.
3. Minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed and signed.
4. Matters arising from the minutes: it was noted that our nominee, Roy Dommett, was elected a member of the Ring Advisory Council; that our Ring reorganisation suggestions were not accepted at a special general meeting of the Ring held at Stafford in October; that our place at Selsdon Park Hotel last Easter was taken by Watendone M.M.
5. Correspondence was noted.
6. Bagman's Report included a reference to the Log, which was taken as read: a reference to the Ring circular, which dealt with increased subs, new Ring bagman (Mike Garland of East Suffolk), new Ring treasurer (Harry Care of Moulton), increased insurance cover, date of reps. meeting (in February at Nottingham), nomination for Ring Squire and Treasurer and two Council members, two foremen's instructional meetings, list of Ring meetings 1978; reference to Morris Clubs of London activities, attendance at its meetings, the Nine Daies Wonder, Westminster Abbey dancing, Lord Mayor's Show, London Clubs Booze~up, May Day show 1978 at Tower Hill and the plan to arrange on a day in January a workshop for Fools under Chris Harris, the Shakespearean clown. Bagman's Report was accepted.
7. Treasurer's Report. In hand last year £394, turnover during year £2,290, in hand £165. Payments of subs. to the various organisations to which TVMM are affiliated were agreed to. Alun Jones was thanked for his work as treasurer.
8. Squire's Report - made by Francis Smith. He spoke of a busy and successful year and thanked his clubmates for their support.

9. Elections. Francis Smith, Squire; Cyril Smith, Bagman; and Alun Jones, Treasurer were re-elected. Andy Melville's valuable job as the producer of the Newsletter was recognised by giving him the title of Recorder.

10. Membership. During the year Tim Lloyd, Lester Bailey, Peter Davis and Amnon Doernburg (now returned to Australia) became full members.

11. Motions. The motion that members should pay an annual subscription was lost.

12. Under Any Other Business (a) while it was hoped Heston Boys (now Men) would get themselves a practice room, nothing need be said about this for the moment. (b) it was thought there was no particular objection to touring with other sides. (c) it was hoped the costumes could be renewed when necessary, that Mrs E.M. Smith be warmly thanked for the work she had done on them and, at Andy's wish, it be noted that the waistcoats are an essential part of the costume. (d) that Jim Brooks be thanked for his gift of a scrapbook and that Jim Beard be responsible for "keeping" it. (e) that the start of the clog dancing group be welcomed and helped if necessary. (f) that fooling be more carefully studied. (g) to plan two Godshill study weekends a year instead of one.

13. Planning. It was decided to plan a family weekend similar to that by the Forest of Dean M.M. for 1978. A group to be responsible for arranging it comprised David Wilson, Jim Beard, Jim Brooks, John Glaister, Digger Glaister, Alun Jones and Cyril Smith. Further planning was put off to an adjourned meeting to be held 9th December next.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45pm.

Minutes of the Adjourned A.G.M. was held in the Foley Hall, Claygate on Friday 9th December 1977. The whole meeting was given to working out plans for 1978.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.