

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

THE FIRST TWENTYFIVE YEARS

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

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 Blanchefflower 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 Marsdon - 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.

6th 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 part 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 mummings 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.

5th, 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 Ballst 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 mummers 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 G1aister 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; Cristopher 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, 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 mummers 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 rehangng 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.

16th 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 Dommatt, 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 Dommatt 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 Dommatt; 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.

23rd 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.

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

3rd 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 . . .

11th 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.

3rd 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!

15th 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.

22nd 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.

30th 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.

5th - 7th 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 first 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 morrissing 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, Clay[ate], 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.

11th 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 Dommett 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 Dommett'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 Walley 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 illici tly 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.

8th 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 - 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 mummers 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.

12th March We morrised at parties at Addlestone and Chertsey.

3rd 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.

16th 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.

22nd April Our Ladies Pleasure at a friend's school in Walton-on-Thames. We wer 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.

5th 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.

21st 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.

2nd 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