



An
Account
of the
Second 25 Years
of the
Thames Valley
Morris Men



THAMES VALLEY LOGBOOK

THE SECOND 25 YEARS

The first thing to say is that Cyril never completed the Thames Valley Log for the second twenty-five years. He continued typing log entries for 1978 until 1985 when he wrote: “The LOG will be brief and badly typed till a new writer takes over from the old. CDS, writer for the first 34 years, has become partially blind”.

The series was continued by Chris Seager Thomas, with Cyril’s blessing, until 1988 and the typescripts were filed in a ring binder but never bound. The series then lapsed but has been recreated for later years from paper and digital records and is stored on the Thames Valley website.

For most of the period (1978-1985) the logs continue to be based on Cyril’s recollections backed up by Jim Brooks’ notebooks, which continued throughout this period, and increasingly by contributions from younger members.

An important source is a series of paper copies of hand-written and typed newsletters produced by various club members, including Dave Dearsley, Andy Melville, Bill Ellis, Tim Cawdron, and Mark Jones and photocopied for circulation until roughly 1988.

Digital version This file is a scanned version of the typescripts lightly edited by John Elkins. Cyril’s spelling was respected as much as possible, but gross errors were corrected both in spelling and in the facts, where they could be checked.

2020 Update It is hoped eventually to include photographs from the huge collection of Thames Valley photographs held and maintained by John Walsh.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ACCURACY AND MEMORY

If you’ve got this far please note that all the log books ultimately depend on people’s memories and their preferences about what is worth recording. If you read any of the logbooks and think of something that has been left out and should be put in, or if anything is just plain wrong, please tell John Elkins who will be happy to include your favourite stories.

John Elkins

July 2020

LOG 1978 of the Thames Valley Morris Men.

Saturday 14th January. We were the guests at the Christmas party of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association, whose secretary is our friend, Mrs Furness. The party was at Ewell Court, we attended in good numbers with ladies, enjoyed dancing morris and folk and sampling the many home made wines.

Sunday 15th January. We spent an enjoyable day with the Bedford M.M. Jim Brooks instructed in Oddington, John G. played and Phil U., Graeme and C.D.S. helped.

Wednesday 18th January. The medieval banquet again at the Burford Bridge Hotel. Profitable and enjoyable.

Saturday 21st January. House warming party at the home of Graeme and Linda. Many TVMM and ladies attended.

Saturday 28th January. David Wilson and Bill Ellis attended the Fools, Workshop in London organised by the Morris Clubs of London and led by the actor, Chris Harris.

Tuesday 7th February. The Wednesday Lot (apprentices practising at the Foley on Wednesdays) carried out an engagement at a church party in Surbiton. They were helped by Lester and Peter Davies from the senior part of TVMM. Jan Lucas played.

Friday 17th February. Albert Hall Festival. The morris was danced by Chipping Campden and London Folk and the long sword by Barnsley.

Thursday 23rd February. Music and morris at a party at the Nurses' Home, Kingston Hospital.

Friday 24th February. Another of our short but profitable appearances at a banquet at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane.

Saturday 25th February. Jim Brooks and C.D.S. were our representatives at the Ring Annual General Meeting at Nottingham. Business and talks took up the day and an enjoyable feast followed by a showing of archival films filled in the evening.

Saturday 4th March. We were represented at the, as usual enjoyable Cup Hill Ale at Haslemere.

Saturday 11th March. We supplied demonstration dancers for an instructional meeting at C.S. House. Dommett, giving instruction in Oddington, tried, we thought, to cover too much ground.

Monday 13th March. C.D.S., helped by Blob (John Hall) and the Champ (Malcolm Snowdon), talked of the morris to a drinking club in the Albert p.h. in Esher.

Friday 17th March. Ladies Pleasure at the Vandals University Football Club at Walton-on-Thames. It followed its usual enjoyable pattern. The food, provided by Pam, was, if that is possible, better than ever.

Tuesday 28th March. We showed the morris, briefly but profitably, at another banquet at the Cafe Royal, Regent St. London.

Saturday 1st April. Alun's tour was the first of this year's Saturday tours. Twentyfour men turned out. After a day's dancing we finished at the Bricklayers' Arms, Worplesdon.

Weekend 7-9 April. The Godshill weekend study course was, as usual enjoyable and useful. We have taken to drinking at the Three Horseshoes, Downton. The Crowlink weekend of the EFDSS District was held at this time and included morris and rapper.

Saturday 15th April. Our big day again - Hocktide. During the day we and our guest clubs - Wheatsheaf, East Surrey, Yateley, Greensleeves, Datchet and Heston - toured into Kingston. Two tours "crossed" at the Walton-on-Thames Goose Fair and all clubs joined. together to dance at Kingston Parish Churchyard and round about. We had a tea party at Claygate and our usual beef, beer and morris at the Drill Hall, Cobham. The Squire of the Ring, David Welti, was our guest as also was John Monson of the Morris Clubs of London. Cup Hill M.M. came for the evening.

Saturday 22nd April. We had had to decide not to attend as a team the Wheatsheaf Day but several TVMM travelled over in the evening to the Ale at Brixton.

Sunday 23rd April: St George's Day. We danced by arrangement at the Wheatsheaf p.h. on Esher Green and at the Harrow p.h. at Weston Green. The latter thrash was 'staffed' entirely by the Wednesday lot led by Lester. The whole side returned to the Harrow in the evening and danced to a nil crowd.

Weekend 29 - 30 April. The occasion of the visit of friends from Rueil-Malmaison to Elmbridge. We provided the beer and served it together with the wine at the meal and contributed morris at the Saturday evening reception at Weybridge. On Sunday we organised and victualled the barn dance at King George's Hall, Esher. Among the French party were a dance group of Auvergnards. Their dances are fairly simple "street" dances and the later part of the evening was largely given over to dancing them by everyone (er, tout le monde).

Monday 1st May: May Day. A fairly elaborate celebration of May Day had been arranged by the licensee of the **Royal Oak**, Surbiton. The weather was appalling and the affair was largely ruined. We danced some morris in the crowded bar. Earlier, at a quick thrash outside, our clogging girls had performed in public for the first time.

Friday 5th May. Pyrford Spring Fling. We provided beer and morris .

Saturday 6th May. Jim Beard and Peter Davis arranged a tour for this day but memory is completely blank as to its details!

Saturday 13th May. The Wednesday Lot carried out three engagements at Sunbury at a school indoors; at a school at Chessington (to a very unresponsive audience) and later more enjoyably at a school fete at Nonsuch, Cheam.

Saturday 20th May. We had a strong team attending the Broadwood M.M. Day of tours and Ale.

Also, separately, the Wednesday Lot danced at the May Fayre on Esher Green. After tea at the bagman's home, they went on to dancer ad hoc, at the Anchor, Wisley and the Black Swan, Martyrs Green.

Saturday 27th May. The Wednesday Lot, after dancing at a fete on Hersham Green repeated the previous Saturday's programme by having tea in Claygate and then going on to dance, again ad hoc at the Alma, Weston Green, and the Prince of Wales, West End, Esher.

Monday 29th May. Angus Stewart, Jan Lucas and the bagman spent an enjoyable and interesting day meeting morris friends and watching the two Bampton teams as well as Old Sppt (sic), Abingdon and Chingford at Bampton. Later we watched Headington Quarry, Bedford and Westminster dancing in Headington Quarry. We observed the several styles of performing the morris and had no doubt which style we favoured.

Saturday 3rd June. A rather bigger party for such engagements danced at a banquet at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington. We were allowed a longer time for our show but we were not satisfied with our performance.

Sunday 4th June. We had a lunch session at the Tudor Close, Richmond, now become a regular house of call for us.

Friday 9th June. We morrised at a barbecue at Ottershaw arranged to benefit the N.S.P.C.C.

Saturday 10th June. This day's tour, arranged by Alan Dean, had included in it an appearance at an ambitious Folk Festival in Kempton Park. The festival proved an expensive failure, thousands of pounds being lost. However, our performance was gratefully witnessed by the few otherwise bored people attending.

Earlier we had danced at the Ashley Arms, Hersham; the Lincoln Arms, Weybridge, and the Kings Head, Shepperton. Then, after tea at Alan's, we went on to Betchworth, Headley and Wootton Hatch.

Monday 12th June. Arising out of our visit to the Cock at Headley two days earlier we were urged to return on this day to dance at a party given for a charity. This we did and enjoyed it.

Saturday 17th June. We provided an item at a dance in Hardwick Barn where John G. was calling.

From early 1977 Andy has been compiling, duplicating and distributing at two monthly intervals a very amusing and valuable News Letter. Other men contribute to it and here follows Graeme's account of *****

Weekend 16 - 19 June. CATAMARAN TRIP TO CHERBOURG 1978.

Friday night: All met in the Jolly Sailor at Poole Quay early in the evening - their speciality was motorcyclists and live acid rock. Next door at the Lord Nelson the DJ was playing Jonesey's favourites. Enormous crowds but too noisy for us to contemplate dancing. We were introduced to Captain Ian who ferried us all out in his jollyboat to the catamaran which was much bigger than most of us thought and a bit like a nissen hut inside - very warm but noisy because the hollow boat acts as a sounding box for the rigging. We had already decided not to attempt Cherbourg for various reasons, the main one being fear. So it was agreed that the Isle of Wight would be a less ambitious and more reasonable aim for the weekend. Ian tuned us in to the shipping forecast which promised high winds. We retired - some insensible, some uneasy!

Saturday morning: TVMM and ladies spent the whole morning until 1pm bailing out the left hand hull (sorry - port side) which had flooded when the engine came loose. A passing matelot lent us his bilge pump and buckets, fetched drinking water for coffee and made no comment. Angry balers discovered they had been working for an hour before anyone thought of plugging the leak. Captain Ian ingeniously filled the hole with a sail and by dinner time all was well. The weather was still rough and unpredictable so we decided to rule out sailing and spend the rest of the day on land. Best stops of the evening were Corfe Castle - very impressive, hilarious museum and people appeared from nowhere when we danced in the square - and Worth Matravers - The Square and Compass - fascinating pub even for me (a non-drinker: hic).

Coming back from Swanage we missed the last ferry. When we arrived we could see its lights disappearing across the estuary. While we were composing ourselves for the 50mile round trip by road we saw the ferry coming closer again. The ferryman, seeing four sets of headlights on the shore, came back to get us! Relieved and elated TVMM and ladies retire for the night.

Sunday morning: Bright sunshine, breakfast and brief swimming and paddling. Refreshed we drove across the New Forest to the Three Horseshoes, Downton, for a lunch time dance. Very pleasant. Fay and Mick did an impromptu clog dance. Hearty handshakes went on a long time after closing time. So a grand time was had by us all and we are all looking forward to going to Cherbourg next year! - Club Reporter.

Thursday 22nd June. The Wednesday Lot led by Lester morrised at a party given for disabled people at King Athelstan school, Kingston.

Friday 23rd June. John G. was calling at a London University party in Brunswick Square, London. A small team showed the morris.

Saturday 24th June. A long, strenuous day - and night! Midday was spent dancing at Shere. (This gave rise later to a rather unpleasant letter from Pilgrim M.M.) Then we morrised at a school fete at West Horsley. After dispersing for a rest we took part in an all-night party in Hardwick Barn. We danced and morrised. Then, using the antlers we had saved for years, we did the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance - with enormous success. Some stalwarts walked to the top of a neighbouring hill at sunrise and afterwards went for a bitterly cold swim.

Weekend 30th June - 3rd July. (Taken from the Newsletter).

Fears that the 1978 visit to Krov/Mosel would be less successful than the one in 1972 were unfounded. A party of 12 in a mini-bus and 4 in Peter's Rover journeyed to this beautiful village in the valley of the Mosel, decorated with banners and oak branches and set in hundreds of acres of vineyards. Here we danced and sang through a glorious weekend.

The weather was better than in '72. It was a beautiful evening when the dozen or more national teams gave performances on the "swimming Mosel board" or raft moored in the river. At dusk the great red flares on the hillside and the hundreds of lights floating down the stream made a splendid spectacle. Our morris contribution, this time, was also splendid (I watched from the bank. - C.D.S.)'

We danced round the village during our stay and, in the enormous procession on the Sunday, played a specially useful part. At this point the car party left for home. The Sunday shows were, this year, in two parts - one on the raft and the other in the gigantic Wienbrunnen tent. We performed in the tent.

On Saturday evening we were part of a boisterous international party in the cellar of Mr Wien Stein. We played and danced and sang with the Germans, the Swiss and the Swedes into the small hours. On Sunday, after an elaborate evening meal at Der Echternacher Hof, we moved to another wine cellar for singing and playing - to the apparent delight of other customers. At close of play, 3.15am, the score was 24 bottles.

On Saturday afternoon we visited Gerd Klein, one of the biggest wine growers in Krov and host to Graeme and Linda, where we learned much about the growing of grapes and the drinking of the products. The result of this is that we became discriminating wine sippers - not your vast plonk swillers of 1972.

On Monday we drove smartly across Europe to Ostend to catch an early channel ferry only to find we were not booked on to it. The next vessel could not accommodate our tall load so we travelled with the juggernauts on the next. Four hours wait, a rough crossing and some cases of seasickness did little to spoil the great enjoyment of a wonderful weekend'.

Financially we did not need help from the club.

Mr and Mrs Furness of Ewell were the friends who secured our invitations to Krov both in '72 and '78 and had planned to be with us again. About a month before our journey John Furness died suddenly in his garden. We all grieve with Mrs Furness in her loss.

Saturday 1st July. The Wednesday Lot had a very successful thrash at a fete on Hersham Green.

Wednesday 5th July. Our turn, together with Ellington M.M., to dance at Westminster Abbey. Moderately successful - crowd, weather and bag. As in previous years, we had a thrash at the Crooked Billet, Wimbledon, on our way home.'

Saturday 8th July. The Wednesday Lot, greatly strengthened by seniors, danced during the midday at the Molesey Festival, being driven from stop to stop in a lorry. Then one team danced at Kingston Grammar School fete at Molesey while another morrised at Petersham Flower Show. The team then booked for an engagement at Shepperton arrived too late to perform - the fete being nearly over. The bagman regrets he had committed his clubmates to too tight a schedule.

Wednesday 12th July. The Wednesday Lot morrised very enjoyably and successfully at a W.I. party at Bookham. They report an especially appreciative audience.

Saturday 15th July. Yet again we had two teams out. All danced together at Chertsey (the Crown and the Bridge) and at King's Manor, Oatlands Park. After this one team danced at the Ellesmere Hospital, Walton, and at Pyrford Flower Show. The other team danced at Claygate Flower Show: this is the 26th birthday of the club. All had tea at Ann Stanley's home and then went on to Laleham and Staines for the evening.

Back in June, Mervyn Stanley left for a two year secondment in the South Yemen. At his departure many of us went to Heathrow to see him off and possibly dance in the terminal. However, Mervyn had left on a flight earlier than expected and so, despite permission having been obtained to dance in the lounge, we saw, little point in doing so. We hope Mervyn's stay will be pleasant and useful but we shall be glad when he returns.

Sunday 16th July. Sunday lunch thrash at the Rose and Crown, Thorpe organised by Wild Bill Ellis.

Saturday 22nd July. Dave Wilson's tour arranged around a thrash at a church fete in Long Ditton. The rest is shrouded in mystery or forgetfulness.

Week 29th July - 5th August. There are two accounts of the Devon holiday taken from the News Letter. Phil Underwood writes:

It has fallen to me to write the official account of TV's visit to the rain forests of Devon. The dates and places are factual but I can't necessarily vouch for the authenticity of any of the comments.

Saturday. Arrive at campsite; note down the times of the express train thundering up and down the nearby line. Problem No. 1: sprogs not allowed in local pubs.

Sunday. The Exeter at Thorverton, a pleasant stop, watched by one or two Exeter M.M. in mufti. Beer - Ushers, which we polished off. Graeme debuted his amazing technicolour

waistcoat. Clever sod. The Three Tuns at Silverton (near campsite). Draught Bass and Cheesy Smash pies.

Monday. The Bridge at Topsham. Lovely old pub., serving Wadsworths, Devenish, Theakstons, etc. Monsoon season starts halfway through the Webley. Exeter Cathedral - no dancing as the sound of falling rain would have drowned the Grateful Dead let alone John and his Hohner.

General misery on return to the campsite. Cheered up slightly when someone suggested it was all Wilson's fault. Gathered at the Fisherman's Cot at Bickleigh Mill again (we'd been there Sunday night, too) where TVMM drowned their sorrows and rubbed shoulders with the coachloads from Birmingham.

Tuesday. Moretonhampstead village - a pleasant stop by two squares of gravel marked Ladies and Gents which only the Goat had the nerve to use. The Goat also got his oats and half a banana - I think they call it muesli. Hilda and Hughie Gibson turned up. The pub - the Plymouth. Fizz. Princeton, lunched at the Flume and Feathers (Bass) . 2½ stops outside the Dartmoor Prison Officers' Mess. You won't believe it didn't rain in the middle of Dartmoor so I won't tell you.

Widdecombe. "John G., John G., you drove us all spare....." with his masterful rendering of "Uncle Tom Cobley" in the Bonny Green. Even Cyril got confused and he was only passing the hat round. Lovely village where you could see Tom Cobley's seat and Peter Gurney's Wurlitzer. Dry stop, Jonesey, hard luck.

Chudleigh Knighton. No dancing at the Claycutters' Arms where the bar billiards was 2Op and Wilson scoffed the last remaining pint of I-don't-know-what-cos-I-didn't-get-any. Evening - Wine (well Whitbread), women and song at the White Bull at Tiverton. Even Pam cheered up.

Wednesday. Totnes shopping precinct, 2 stops. The weather - fine. The beer - Yeech. Blackawton Brewery, Blackawton. Well, actually we danced outside the village pub until our pet stormcloud deposited its contents on us. Exit T.V. to the brewery which makes the nicest beer in the world. Many free pints. Later T.V. decide to start their own brewery and cut out the middle man. Just think - Squire's Bitter...Bagman's Mild... Jones' Not Particular... Perhaps not.

Dartmouth. 2 good stops on the front by the boat pool. Mucho crumpeto. The Goat nearly cashed his ackers on the main road. Evening - the Avon Inn at Avonwick. Danced with the Dartington M.M. from Dartington and the Churchwarden M.M. from Churchwarden. Sorry, Totnes. The latter danced at 100 mph: their legs never leave their bodies. Both sides invited T.V. down for weekends. Jam session later in the garden where the landlord did a 'pied piper' with the kids and handed out sweeties. Didn't give me one, the rat. Discovered Mad Bill had arrived at the campsite and had started talking.

Thursday. Late start in the morning as some fiend (snigger) was doing the laundry and half of T.V. were wandering around without any trousers. 'Orrible sight.

Ashburton. Finally managed to drag Phil W. away from his seventeen course bar snack in the Exeter Inn and get him to process through the town to a pleasant stop outside a TV repair shop (!!). The bod inside offered us 5Op to go away. Nice place, Ashburton.

Buckfastleigh. Ride on the Dart Valley Railway then a quick dance outside the station. Graeme offered his soul to the Devil for a chance to signwrite the locos. Heated-looking board meeting going on in the carriage on the next track. They must have run out of Directors'. Some of the lads visited Buckfast Abbey where I am reliably informed the discerning grockle may purchase ashtrays with "A present from Galilee inscribed on them and sticks of rock with INRI running all the way through. Ellis is still talking.

Paignton. Yecch. The Goat enjoyed it but he's a randy devil anyway. All Dean's nerve snapped through the town and thundered fire and brimstone at the cowering grockles. It was worth seeing. Evening - dancing with Exeter M.M. who are friendly bunch - in Dawlish. Then a good post mortem in the Prince of Wales. It must have been good even Cyril was diplomatic.

Friday. Bradninch, a nice stop at the top of the hill in one of the more local stops. Cullompton, for a town there weren't many people watching. Broadhembury, thanks to Pete Jones for discovering this super thatched village whilst on one of his midnight prowls. Whitbread at the Drewe Arms. Mad Bill reaches his 999,999th word and pauses for a drink. Budleigh Mill, rained off but the cream teas were nice.

Beer - Nescafe. The White Bull, Tiverton, the massed bands of the Thames Valley Morris Men meet for a final jam. The week was nicely rounded off with a certain 32-year-old accountant [Alun Jones] being immersed in a tin bath full of water in the yard. The rest was too rude to relate but Clive will show you the picture if you slip him 50p. I got a wet sock round the gob. Mad Bill had, by then, said one million, six hundred and fifty three thousand, four hundred and twenty one and a half words, over half of them jokes. T.V. talk far into the night and retire, knackered.

Saturday. Travelling day. Jonesey and Wilson decide to go to the Cotswolds to arrange the campsite. I couldn't resist noting down the extract from their conversation:

AJ. The main thing we have to do is to check that our campsite still OK.

DW. Yes but I'd certainly like to create a situation whereby we make absolutely sure that all parties involved are fully aware of the point that I'm trying to make fundamentally clear, if you get that I mean.

AJ. Eh?

DW. It's no good travelling all that way without having a bloody drink.

AJ. Ye gods!

And finally thanks to all of T.V. and friends for a great holiday, with special thanks, tot Dave Wilson for campsite and pubs; Al for cabaret; Fran for his home for Waterlogged Gentlemen;

British Rail "We are not alone"; Muffin for clearing up the cow pats (I don't know how but it was revolting); Graeme for the T.V. stickers, badges and TVMM all the way through the sticks. The bag was approximately £160. TVMM cards to Bill and Jane Tofts, Tim Lloyd and Julie, Andy and Jane. Nice to see Joyce well again. Cheerio! Phil U.

The second account is by C.D.S.

Morris holiday 1978 was spent near Silverton, Devon. Our party numbered about 30 - TVMM, womenfolk, friends, children and dogs. The camp site was a pleasant one at Heazill Farm. Our pub. was to have been the Three Tuns but we only used it twice because children could not be accommodated. We danced there on Sunday and also at a pub. nearby which we discovered was the practice room for Exeter M.M. We met some of them there.

Monday was a meteorological disaster. We went to Exeter but found dancing impossible. We had the Evening at the Fisherman's Cot near Tiverton.

On **Tuesday** we went on Dartmoor. We danced at Moreton Hampstead, twice at Princetown (declining, on account of time, an after hours drink in the Prison Officers' Mess) and had a last stop at Widdecombe. Arriving back in Exeter and Silverton we found it had poured with rain all day. The Evening - White Bull, Tiverton: the welcome, the food, the drink, the music all very good indeed.

Wednesday started with two excellent thrashes in Totnes. In the afternoon we danced at Blackawton and then spent an hour or so in the one-man brewery there. Nigel Fitzhugh brews a most excellent bitter ale and is generous with it. On to Dartmouth and two most enjoyable and profitable thrashes. The Evening as quite unusually interesting and enjoyable.

By arrangement we met the Churchwarden M.M. at their pub, (the Avon at Avonwick: excellent pub, pleasant garden and generous landlord) together with four Dartington M.M. We drank, danced, talked and sang together. The Churchwardens come from villages round Totnes and their approach to morris is quite different from our own. They dance everything fast and in the style of Bledington - hook legs in Bampton and so on. They also fabricate a sort of morris which is fun to watch and, one supposes, to dance. Their squire remarked on our good morris. We parted with invitations to come again.

On **Thursday** we drove to Ashburton to lunch and dance and then went on to Buckfast. Here some went on the very pleasant Dart Valley Railway trip and others went to Buckfast Abbey. This latter trip was not enjoyed: monks were selling gimcracks and all was commercialised in a bad way. The whole party rejoined and we had a short thrash at the DVR station. After tea we went to Paignton where we had a longish profitable thrash on the seafront there. Phil U. goated. with extreme vigour. (All three goat operators performed successfully from time to time during the week). Then on to another interesting morris experience to Dawlish to dance with the Exeter M.M. Arriving promptly at the dance pitch in the town gardens, we found Exeter M.M. very short handed. So we started off the proceedings and very largely carried the show throughout. Exeter M.M. were grateful and friendly and pressed us to go on to their next stop. Tired and hungry and thirsty we declined and went our ways.

On **Friday** we had a 'local' tour - Bradninch, Cullompton and, for lunch, the very beautiful village of Broadhembury. We planned to dance at Bickleigh Mill but the heavens opened again and we returned to the campsite.

During the day our ladies had shopped and then prepared a splendid evening meal, in camp, for the whole party. It was a lovely thing to do and, most fortunately, the rain stopped so allowing us to eat and drink outside.

We went back to the White Bull for The Evening. The tradition here is that anyone celebrating a birthday is ducked in a tub of water in the pub. yard. It was the birthday of Alun and a local customer. They were duly ducked, as also was the landlord, for good measure. Other prospective duckees resisted successfully. Sensibly, Alun removed his wet clothes, made a ceremonial circuit of the yard and drove back to camp, on this his birthday, in the same state in which he entered the world on his birthday some three decades ago.

This year's holiday was an enjoyable and successful one, marred by bad weather. The standard of dancing was good throughout, sometimes excellent. (I watched - C.D.S.)

Saturday 12th August. Alun's tour was, during midday and the afternoon, in Richmond. After tea, at Derek's home, we danced at the Plough and at the Anchor, both in Bookham. Bill Tofts brought his wife, Jane, out to be with us in the evening. Jane has been very ill indeed and we were happy she was so much recovered.

Saturday 19th August. Tim Lloyd was married to his Julie and we had a small party to attend the church and later to dance at the reception at Ken Wood.

Weekend 25th August. During the year Tom Cheshire died and his son Eddie continued to welcome us to Hilcot Farm near Withington. At the King's Head our friend John Taylor the licensee had also died but his widow, Colley, also welcomed us to continue our association with this pub. and its customers.

Saturday's tour took us to pubs new to us and also to dance in Cirencester. Evening at the King's Head.

On **Sunday** the party was joined by Johnny Hall and his family as well as by Ron Horsley, who helped powerfully with his music. The bagman also hobbled about on an injured foot. Nick Oliver and Anne were also with us for the weekend. Stan Kilby also came over from Stroud to be with us for the day. Nick and Stan are now, of course, with the Faithful City M.M.

We danced at The Mill, Withington, the King's Head and the Roman Villa at Chedworth. A number of teams dance here from time to time: we were given the extra privilege of being invited to dance in the very beautiful grounds to a goodly number of visitors. After The Evening at the Seven Tuns, Chedworth, some of the party left for home, including Fran and his boys.

On **Monday**, we danced at the Cheshire farm house before a quick party drink at the King's Head. The lunch stop was at the New Inn, Coln St. Aldwyns, a quite especially beautiful Cotswold. village where the two thrashes and the lunch were more than usually enjoyable. The after-lunch party went on till 8.15 p.m. Many of us had left for home during the afternoon. A most successful weekend.

Saturday 9th September. The programme for Fran's tour was enjoyably carried out - Walton shopping precinct; the White Hart, New Haw; the Anchor, Wisley (lunch); a show in Chertsey Agricultural Show in the afternoon; tea at Fran's and a swim; the Plough at Downside; the Black Swan, Martyrs Green and the Seven Stars, Newark. It was recalled that we had made our first pub. stop at this place on a tour 26 years before.

Sunday 10th September. Bill Tofts evening tour started with a show for the old people of Glendale, Walton. After a quick drink at the Royal George, Hersham, we started off a musical evening for a group of friends in Westcar Lane, Hersham. The evening was rounded off with a very good thrash at the Swan, Walton-on Thames.

Wednesday 20th September. C.D.S. gave a talk on English folk customs to Bookham W.I. Arising out of this, he was asked to teach the morris to a group of men and a group of women in the village. Some of the men attended a practice at the Foley, Claygate, but have not been seen since.

Sunday 23rd September. Steve's tour. The morning saw us in Mitcham and Wandsworth, tea at Steve's and then on to Wimbledon, finishing at the Hand in Hand, a much morrised pub., on the Common.

Weekend 6th - 8th October. Study weekend at Godshill: our second this year. Well attended and valuable.

Dear Cyril,

You asked me to let you have a note about the jig Stephen Ashcroft and I danced at St. Mark's Church, Wimbledon on the occasion of a folk service on Sunday 7 October 1978. I am sorry to have failed to do so before but here are the particulars, in case it isn't too late for the log book.

With the agreement of the Squire, I accepted an invitation to dance at the folk service at St. Mark's, Wimbledon, where Stephen Ashcroft worships. We did the Nutting Girl, from Fieldtown as a two-handed jig, dancing either side of the altar, which is at the centre of the diameter of this semi-circular, modern church.

Afterwards Maurice Courtney, who had asked me to take part said my dancing had reminded him of Norman Keam's. "He hoped I wouldn't mind his saying so!" I said I found that hard to believe but that he couldn't have paid me a greater compliment. We danced to Joan Gilbert's playing, which was excellent.

We also took part in country dancing at the beginning of the service and half way through.

There was a ceilidh after the service but I wasn't in the position to stay to take part.

yours ever,

BILL [TOFTS]

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Foley Hall, Claygate on Friday 13th October 1978.

- 1 . TVMM remembered for a moment George Lawrence and Norman Keam.
2. PRESENT were Lester Bailey, Jim Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Paul Cooper, Dick Chaundy, David Dearsley, John Hall, John Glaister, Digger Glaister, Siward Glaister, Mike Jenkins, Alun Jones, Peter Jones, Jan Lucas, Clive McDowell, Andy Melville, Derek Paynter, Cyril Smith, Francis Smith, Malcolm Snowdon, Graeme Thompson, Bill Tofts, Mike Vardy, Angus Stewart, Jack Garwood. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Ashcroft, Mike Freeman and David Wilson.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting had been printed in the newsletter and were taken as read. With a correction - Jim Brooks and Jim Beard to "keep" the scrapbook - the minutes were agreed and signed.
4. Under Matters Arising it was noted the Fools Workshop had taken place - Bill Ellis and Dave Wilson attending it - and that the plan to arrange a family camp this year had not been carried out. This family weekend plan was now postponed.
5. Correspondence. Many items were read and noted. The Ring circulars, under all its headings, were also noted.
6. Bagman's Report. A record of the club's activities is contained in the Log and is taken as read. Report on the series of Wednesday night practices at the Foley was given with special reference to the musical help given over several years by Ron Horsley. The relation of TVMM with the London clubs and that organisation's activities was also reported on. Thanks was expressed to Alison Bailey for her preparation and gift to the club of a finely bound copy of the Log of the first 25 years of the existence of TVMM.
7. Treasurer's Report. Alun Jones presented a statement of the club's finances. Money in hand is £646 as against £166 a year ago. The statement was considered carefully, accepted and thanks expressed to Alun for its preparation. Payment to organisations to which TVMM is affiliated was authorised: the Ring £5; Elmbridge Arts Council £3; Elmbridge Twinning

Guild £1; London Clubs £3; EFDSS £7.50. It was resolved to make a donation to the Vaughan Williams Library, C.S. House, of £20.

8. Squire's Report. Francis Smith said he had enjoyed his period of office. He was proud of his club. He thought the standard- of dancing had remained high but warned against complacency. He thanked Mervyn for his help in instructing, Andy for his production of the newsletter, John G. for his music and musical leadership, Alun for his care of the money, Cyril for carrying out the responsibilities of bagman and all his clubmates for their support and, companionship.

9. Elections. Andy Melville was elected Squire (to take office next Boxing Day). Cyril Smith was re-elected Bagman and Alun Jones re-elected Treasurer. Andy continues as Recorder.

10. Membership. No apprentice had danced in during the year although several of them had been costumed and had taken a full part in team performances. Several men have joined us from other clubs: Peter Kyle from Moulton, Angus Stewart from Cambridge, Jan Lucas from Bangor, Peter Taylor from Mansfield, Dick Chaundy from East Surrey (though formerly with TVMM) and Roger Marsden from Hong Kong. Nevertheless TVMM required them to dance their jigs in due course.

11. Future Activities. Many plans were considered for the future and it was decided to send a party to Paris (20-22 October), attend the show in connection with the Lord Mayor's Show (11 November), dance at Fetcham (12 December), help with the 'instructional' at Shere (5 - 7 Januar7 '79), accept an invitation to morris at the Kingston District, EFDSS at their Jubilee dance at C.S. House (13 January), take part in the Polsden Lacey Festival (July), have a Ladies' Pleasure (January or February), arrange the Hocktide Day (21 or 28 April), take the morris holiday week 28 July - 4 August, apply to attend Thaxted Ring meeting (1 - 3 June) and to continue to have two Godshill weekends next year. Other invitations will be considered at a fixtures meeting.

12. Under Any Other Business the following subjects were discussed: Jim Brooks' ceremonial cakes for Boxing Day; an invitation to Gerd Klein of Krov to visit us if and when we help entertain a Swedish party, as has been mooted: to ballot for choice of holiday places - Yetholm, Arran, southern Ireland, Ardvorlich, Derbyshire, Pembroke; difficulties in accepting or declining invitations to dance at fetes; possibility of having a return visit from King Alfred Men; renewing costumes; arranging a mummers play for 1st December and thereafter; so-called women's morris.

13. A fixtures meeting was fixed for 10th November next.

The meeting; closed at 10.45pm.

(signed) A. Melville.

Weekend 20 - 23 October. This date should have been 20 - 22. A party of 13, including the chairman of the Elmbridge Twinning Guild, Councillor Paul Vanson, and Mrs Vanson, journeyed by mini-bus to Rueil-Malmaison. The occasion was the magnificent annual Breton party. The food and drink were characteristic of that province and, as usual, the party lasted into the small hours. We showed the morris. On the Sunday we took part in a festival celebrating the wine growing in the neighbourhood (which, surely, must be minimal!). We left somewhat early to catch the 7 o'clock ferry at Dieppe. Dieppe was strike bound. We had to find another route home and so did not arrive till well into Monday morning. Hence 20 - 23.

Friday 11th November. Lord Mayor's Show. TVMM were in the party dancing in Paternoster Square. Afterwards we went, in good numbers, to the party in the City University.

Friday 1st December. Pyrford Christmas Party. As the Newsletter has it: "was excellent, helped enormously by the Cloggies and T.V. Royal Shakespeare Company (Mummers) recieved, (sic) great critical acclaim, with encouraging shouts of "Rubbish" "Git orf" and "What Mummers?" Seriously a really enjoyable performance.

Weekend 1-3 December. Some instruction in morris and rapper by C.D.S. and Bevis Colmer (formerly TWMM) at the EFDSS District course at Findon, Sx.

Boxing Day 26th December. Having rained all night the rain died away when we started the tour at the Swan at 10.30am. The tour then followed its usual rumbustious, rather confused but nonetheless enjoyable course. The crowds were as big and as generous as ever. Clive McDowell, Peter Taylor, Angus Stewart, Mike Jenkins and Jan Lucas all danced their jigs. Fran danced himself out and received his presentation tankard as Squire and Andy danced himself into that office. At the Hare, proceedings were interrupted, so to speak, by a performance of the Mummers play. At three of the pubs the apprentices, helped by one or two seniors, sneaked away early to the pitches and demonstrated how far they had got in their studies. We were glad to have with us Heston M.M. - no longer boys and dancing very confidently. We finished at the Griffin and some of us were guests, after hours, of the landlord there.

We had 31 men out and their names are: Stephen Ashcroft, Lester Bailey, Jim Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Peter Davis, Alan Dean, Ron Duncombe, Bill Ellis, Mike Freedman, Peter Haviland, John Hall, Alun Jones, Peter Jones, Jan Lucas, Clive McDowell, Andy Melville, Derek Paynter, Nick Rose, Cyril Smith, Peter Tayler, Bill Tofts, Phil Underwood, Angus Stewart, Jack Garwood, Mark Jones, Murray Butcher, Ron Horsley, Digger Glaister, John Glaister. Philip Rush, now of the Gloucester M.M. was a visitor. Several men attending regularly but being unable to turn out on Boxing Day were: Paul Cooper, David Dearsley, Malcolm Snowdon, Graeme Thompson, Mike Vardy, Phil Williams, David Wilson, Dick Chaundy, Malcolm Hendra, and Robert Peace. Mervyn Stanley (in the Yemen) and Rick Payne (in San Salvador) are doing tours of duty abroad. Fran Smith, Siward Glaister and Mike Jenkins should have been included in the above list as having been present on Boxing Day.

Several men, still members but being seen little of, are Jim Barclay, Neil Cornell and Bill Wakefield. One or two other names must now be dropped from the list.

1978 has been a completely successful year. The hotel shows, the Godshill weekends, the trip to Krov and the trip to Paris, the morris holiday in Devon were all notable occasions. The standard of dancing has been high, if not, perhaps, superlatively so. Several good morris men entered the team via the Wednesday practices. The present generation of apprentices are very keen and will be good in due time.

We are in close touch with our Paris friends, through the Twinning Guild; we have exchanged greetings with friends in Krov/Mosel, thus keeping open lines of communication; and we are planning a visit to England of some friends from Sweden who we met in Krov.

Many plans have been made for 1979.

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LOG 1979 of the THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

SATURDAY 6th JANUARY. A team, including Jim Brooks as instructor, journeyed to Thaxted for the day to instruct the Thaxted M.M. and other morris men in the Oddington tradition. This came about as the result of insufficient support by Ring clubs to an instruction meeting at Shere, Surrey. It was easier to take the instruction to the clubs who wanted it than doing it the other way round. The day was very enjoyable and the clear, frosty night was beautiful for the ride home.

THURSDAY 11th JANUARY. MCL (Morris Clubs of London) meeting.

SATURDAY 13th JANUARY. TVMM (Thames Valley Morris Men) provided the morris interlude at the Kingston District, EFDSS, gathering at Cecil Sharp House.

FRIDAY 26th JANUARY. Fixtures meeting at the Foley, Claygate.

FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY. Ladies Pleasure at the Arbrook Hall, Claygate. Digger's Pam provided what can truly be described. as a sumptuous repast. In glowing candlelight, beautiful women and brave men dined - and wined on the Krover Nachtach we had saved for this very notable occasion.

MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY. MCL meeting.

SATURDAY 3rd MARCH. TVMM provided a morris interlude at a dance, called by John Glaister, at Digger's Badminton club, Addlestone.

SATURDAY 17th MARCH. Ring Annual General Meeting at Northampton. Jim Brooks and CDS represented TVMM. Snow conditions had to be coped with. The debates, reported elsewhere, were lively tho long.

SATURDAY 24th MARCH. On behalf of MCL, CDS arranged an instructional meeting at Weston Green, Esher. Men from several clubs attended and had excellent instruction in the Fieldtown tradition from Bert Cleaver of Greensleeves M.M.

FRIDAY 30th MARCH. Ron Horsley's group, with Graeme Thompson playing double bass, provided the music for a barn dance at St George's College, Weybridge and TVMM showed some morris.

SATURDAY 31st MARCH. Alun's tour. TVMM assembled and danced at the Barley Mow, Hersham, went on to the Swan, Walton, and then to Church Square, Shepperton. Here the Mummers' Play was performed. The performance and also the morris was made somewhat difficult by the ringing of the church bells. We had tea at Alun's home and then spent the evening at the Tudor Close, Richmond. This was for the last time before rebuilding.

WEEKEND 6 - 8 APRIL. Study weekend at Godshill. Andy writes: This worthwhile weekend, in a beautiful location, saw 12 blokes approx. revising Fieldtown on Saturday and Sherborne on Sunday. Young Tim and Robert survived the rigours of Jim Brooks' private tuition. The ladies practised clog, ensuring everybody found the weekend enjoyable.

TUESDAY 10th APRIL. MCL meeting.

SUNDAY 15th APRIL. Lunch time dancing in aid of a charity at the Seven Stars, Ripley. This was an Easter Sunday gathering of traction engines and other curiosities including morris dancing. The crowd was small but generous.

SATURDAY 21st, APRIL. Hocktide. As in earlier years, a number of clubs accepted TYMM invitation to attend this Day. Three tours were arranged. All came together in Kingston in the afternoon and danced in and near the Parish Church yard. Tea was taken in Claygate Village Hall and then all went to the Drill Hall, Cobham, for roast beef, beer, pickles and morris **dancing**.

SUNDAY 22nd, APRIL. St George's Day celebrations. After a little earlier confusion in arrangement-making and with help from Heston M.M. and the newly formed Spring Grove M.M. we showed the morris during the midday period at the Wheatsheaf, Esher; the Harrow, Weston Green; and the Hare and Hounds, Claygate.

MONDAY 23rd APRIL. Still continuing the St George's Day celebrations we sang and played at the Harrow, Weston Green and at the Hare and Hounds, Claygate. The mummers also performed their play at the Hare.

FRIDAY 27thn APRIL. Barn dance at Hersham. John G. writes: At the request of Bob Clark, an old friend of John Glaister, TVMM danced at his retirement celebration. They also

played some music and organised general dancing. Much appreciated by Bob and his wife Dorothy. (Bob died quite suddenly of a heart attack on 20/1/80).

WEEKEND 27 - 30 APRIL. The occasion of the visit from Rueil-Malmaison near Paris of French friends, some of whom were accommodated by TVMM. This involved receiving our guests as well as attending the barn dance mentioned above. During Saturday we spent the midday hours at the Walton-on-Thames Goose Fair. The reception for the French took place at the Day Centre, Weybridge, where morris men acted as waiters and showed the morris as an item in the entertainment. On Sunday evening TVMM organised a barn dance for the French and other visitors at King George's Hall, Esher. Ron Horsley provided the music - in addition to the Breton pipes and the pipes of the Oatlands Pipe Band - and his wife, Margaret, was the caller.

FRIDAY 4th MAY. Pyrford Spring Fling. John G. writes: Pyrford Folk Dancers come to expect TVMM at their special functions and look forward to seeing them there. Dancing by the men and the Cloggies went down well, as did the Fullers London Pride dispensed by the men.

SATURDAY 12th MAY. Datchet Day. TVMM accepted an invitation to send a side but, in the event, only two of our men turned up, Graeme and Bill Ellis. The tours were exceptionally pleasant, traversing the Thames Upstream from 'our' reach. We had two regrets: in letting down the Datchet Men and missing so good a day and feast. Graeme's full account of the day is printed in Andy's Newsletter.

MONDAY 14th MAY. Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London. As requested we sent a bigger party to this very swagger affair. We danced two sides throughout and were told we provided a very good show.

SATURDAY 19th MAY. Graeme's tour. During the day 20 men joined this tour. It started at Byfleet and went on to Addlestone. We had tea at Graeme's home after taking in an afternoon fete. In the evening we went to Woburn Hill and finished the evening at the George, Addlestone, where we had a good deal of music and some music hall songs from Phil Underwood.

SUNDAY 20th. JULY. Grosvenor House Hotel. We showed the morris during the banquet as on earlier occasions and with equal success. We were, however, scolded afterwards for not having the Goat with us.

MONDAY 28th JULY. Bampton. Graeme and his Linda and CDS travelled up to watch the Whit Monday dancing. We met, without arrangement, Mike Freedman and wife and Jack Garwood and wife. The CDS party spent the afternoon deeper in the Cotswolds at the home of CDS' daughter at Aldsworth before going on for the evening's morris at Headington Quarry.

WEEKEND 1 - 3 JUNE. Thaxted Ring meeting. Tim Cawdron writes: As far as TVMM were concerned most of the dancing took place on Saturday when we toured the attractive local villages in the company of Bedford M.M. and Chanctonbury M.M. That evening we

joined the other sides in Thaxted's centre for massed dancing in front of enormous crowds. Having finished dinner early, TVMM returned to the same spot for a very well received solo performance before the still sizeable gathering. Thaxted M.M's later performance of the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance was quite unforgettable. On Sunday we all processed to Thaxted church for communion service, leaving for home shortly afterwards.

TUESDAY 12th June. TWMM showed the morris as accompaniment to CDS' spiel at Fetcham W.I. with a drink or two elsewhere. It was a very good evening for a largely apprentice side.

THURSDAY 14th JUNE. West End, Esher, evening fete. The weather was bad and the local arrangements a little shaky. Nevertheless the largely apprentice side got a good deal of fun out of the excursion.

FRIDAY 15th JUNE. As on many occasions we provided a morris interlude at a barn dance called by John G. in the fine Hardwick Barn, Lyne.

SATURDAY 16th JUNE. Johnny Hall's tour. The tour took in Sutton Green, Pirbright and Knap Hill in the morning; a hospital fete at Horsley in the afternoon; tea at Blob's and the evening at Sadlers' Arms, Send, and the Seven Stars, Ripley.

THURSDAY 21st JUNE. Midsummer Festival at Cranford, Mx. Confession must be made that only four men turned up and altho they danced strenuously the club had to accept a strongly worded letter of complaint from the organisers. Despite this we were asked to go again a fortnight later.

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE. The organisers of a fete in Worcester Park asked us to dance at local pubs before dancing at the opening of their fete and again during the course of it. This we did with a side mostly apprentices but with several seniors. Later in the day we went on to the all-night party in Hardwick Barn. Here we danced the morris, performed the mummers' play, did the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, watched the sun rise and went for a swim. Gosh!

SATURDAY 30th JUNE. Siward's tour. In the morning we danced at the Bear, Cobham, the Plough, Downside and at the Bell, Fetcham. Here we were made specially welcome by the landlord and were provided with free food and drink. After dancing at a fete in Leatherhead we went on to dance at the wedding of Derek's son in Weybridge. Siward and Jenny gave us tea and we went in the evening to the Golden Grove, Lyne, and to the Rose and Crown, Thorpe.

SUNDAY 8th JULY. We turned out in good numbers to meet and dance at Fetcham before going on to the hugely attended folk festival in the beautiful grounds of Polesden Lacey, a stately home near Dorking. We added some good morris to a programme of Playford folk dancing, pop-country group playing and clog dancing. The Spinners gave a concert in the evening.

TUESDAY 10th JULY. Our return visit to Cranford. - successful this time - and again staffed by apprentices.

FRIDAY 13th JULY. We joined Yateley M.M. for an evening of morris at a pub at Knaphill near Woking.

SATURDAY 14th JULY. Dave Dearsley's tour, who writes: 11am The Bush, Farnham; 12 noon The Three Horseshoes, Thursley; 1pm The Barley Mow, Tilford; 2pm The Spotted Cow, Bourne; 3pm The Castle, Farnham; 6.30pm The Frensham Pond Hotel; 7.30pm The Cherry Tree, Rowledge; 8.30pm The Bat and Ball, Bourne. In attendance: Andy Melville, Francis Smith, Siward Glaister, Angus Stewart, John Glaister, John Hall, Mervyn Stanley, Peter Jones, Bill Tofts, Derek Paynter, Jack Garwood, Bill Ellis, Digger Glaister, Tim Cawdron, Clive McDowell and me. Remarks: The weather was beautiful, hot, sunny, beer-drinking weather. Mervyn, who had only just returned from the Yemen, fell asleep on my lawn for the whole afternoon and blamed it on "jet lag" of all things! Dancing excellent, crowds appreciative, pubs welcoming - a good Thames Valley tour.

WEDNESDAY 18th JULY. Despite the difficulty of getting a side early on a weekday evening we showed the morris at Byfleet Parish Day as we have on many occasions.

THURSDAY 19th JULY. Bill Tofts' wife has, alas, been very ill for some time and has been nursed in Middlesex Hospital, London. On this evening we showed some morris in the wards for the patients. It was a happy occasion. Afterwards we took some of the nurses to a nearby pub.

SATURDAY 21st JULY. Poems and pints at a pub in Lyne. This event, arranged by John G. at very short notice, took the form of a ceilidh. Siward was bundled into the chair and ran the show with great success.

SUNDAY 22nd JULY. We fell in with Wild Bill's suggestion that we had a midday morris at the Jolly Butcher, Staines. The bag was given to a London child in connection with the Year of the Child. We had a big turnout and went to Bill's mum for refreshment afterwards.

WEEK 28th JULY - 3rd AUGUST. The Pembrokeshire morris holiday. Phil Underwood wrote a full and amusing account of the week and it was printed in Andy's Newsletter. The following is a very much shortened version:

Saturday 28th July. Travelling day... to a beautiful campsite tucked away in the middle of somewhere (near Roch, Pem.) our own field, stream, tapwater, hot and cold cowpats . . . good to see Mervyn Effendi (on leave from the Yemen).

Sunday. Nice to see Stan and Hilary Kilby. (Stan danced with TVMM 17 years ago and is now with the Faithful City M.M.) The weather was great... dancing at Solva to the dulcet tones of Graeme's tuba outside the Cambrian... off to New Gale beach... beach cricket... Evening, the swan at Littlehaven ...and country dancing on seafront.

Monday. St Davids... super Cathedral... danced by cathedral... it rained ... scuttled for cover... danced Room for the Cuckold underneath the Arches... Mark Jones danced his jig into membership of the Club... the rain from Spain was falling on Porthgain . . .didn't dance ... back to Farmers Arms.

Tuesday. Hurricane Muffin... Dave Dearsley's tent blown down... Happens to the nicest guys, should have canvassed for help ... noon, Broadhaven. . . 1pm Littlehaven . . . We ended up in the Victoria, Roch... swapped songs with local Welsh choir until after midnight.

Wednesday. 11.30am dancing Nolton Haven... 1.30pm two dancing stops at the Cambrian, Solva - landlord bought the food. The afternoon was spent at the vicarage fete, Solva. There were several amusing incidents: Derek won the over 40s dash; tugs of war ended when one side ran out of rope; TVMM won a tug of war but were disqualified for having 12 men instead of 8; TVMM collected £29.50 for church funds.

Thursday. Off day. Evening... Sergeants' mess RAF Bawdry (who, incidentally, provided TVMM's early morning alarm at Mach 3 at 500ft) ... evening started off ... glowering suspiciously... few dances and a few pints later the ice was melted. The duty officer was steaming, the bloke in charge of the Mess was belting out "The Wild West Show" and TVMM was beginning to feel very much at home... TVMM retire at 3am. We heard later that they had been hauled over the coals for allowing the bar to stay open as late as it did.

Friday. After Armageddon at fifteen feet and Mach 3 provided by RAF Bawdry we danced at Littlehaven. 1.45pm very successful stop in Haverfordwest outside Woolly's (we dance at all the best places). Evening at the Victoria, Roch... jam session... threw us out at 12.15am... inebriation.

Saturday. Depart... some stay on couple days.

To sum up: holiday a great success, enough dancers for two sides plus musicians.

SATURDAY 11th AUGUST. An 'extravaganza' in Sandown Park for charities. On the evening before so few men said they could attend that the bagman phoned the organiser to say we could not carry out our commitment. However, next morning Phil Underwood spent the entire morning telephoning TVMM and succeeded in getting a team together to perform at this extremely big and enjoyable occasion. The irate organiser was mollified.

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST. Andy's tour took us in the morning to the Crown, Chertsey, the Kings Head, Church Square, Shepperton, and to lunch at the Feathers, Laleham. We had tea with Jane and Andy. The evening saw us at the Jolly Farmers and the Swan at Staines and later to the Perseverance, Wraysbury.

WEEKEND 24 - 27 AUGUST & following WEEK. Cotswold weekend. TVMM spent their usual weekend at Hilcot Farm near Withington, dancing in the villages around the southern part of the area. They were joined on the Monday by the Master Olofsgardens Folkdanslag from Stockholm. The following notes appeared in the Newsletter: In July 1978 in Krov/Mosel TVMM made the acquaintance of the members of a group of Swedish folk dancers, the Master Olofsgardens Folkdanslag from near Stockholm. Their spokesman, Hans Rydberg, wrote to us asking about the possibility of the group visiting England in 1979. This was arranged.

We (Tim Cawdron, Rob Miller and CDS) collected the party from Bayswater late in the evening of 26th August and drove them, very tightly packed with bodies and luggage, in a minibus and two cars to the Cotswold Cottage Centre, Aldsworth.

On Monday, Swedes and TVMM danced together at the New Inn, Coln St Aldwyns; at the Roman Villa, Chedworth; and after tea at Swyre Farm, at the Lamb Inn, Burford. After eating shepherds pie and making music together the morris men went home and the Swedes went back to Aldsworth.

The **Tuesday** was sunny and very hot - as indeed was the whole period of the visit. The Swedes, therefore, chose to go sight-seeing in Oxford without dancing - as had been arranged - in their beautiful but rather heavy costumes. Tim and CDS went on the very enjoyable conducted tour of the colleges. Later the party went on to Woodstock, had a fish and chip supper, were met by the Oxford City M.M. and all danced and drank at the Star Inn till late evening.

Wednesday was Stratford day. Again the Swedes chose sight-seeing in the town to dancing in the heat in Bancroft Gardens, not knowing then that Oxford Radio had broadcast that they would do so. In the afternoon Hathaway's Cottage, Shottery, was visited. The dancers changed into costume and danced there. Then they returned, for a very successful session in the Bancroft Gardens. Supper was taken outdoors at Alveston Manor Hotel. Here both the Shakespeare M.M. and Ilmington M.M. joined the Swedes in a long session of dancing outdoors and finished the rest of the evening dancing and playing in the hotel lounge.

On **Thursday**, by invitation of the Dean, the Swedes gave a splendid performance in the grounds of Gloucester Cathedral. In the afternoon the Swedes gave their complete programme in the lovely grounds of Sudeley Castle to a very appreciative audience. Tea was taken in the castle. Members of several EFDSS folk dance groups gathered at Swyre Farm (the Cotswold Cottage Centre) for the evening barn dance. Swedish and English social dances were very much enjoyed. The Swedes danced on long after the English left and after that had parties in their rooms. The Swedes, as well as being extremely good companions and splendid dancers, are also hard drinkers. Tim, Rob and CDS drove their Swedish friends back to their hotel in Bayswater, arriving at about noon on **Friday 31st August**. After that the Swedes shopped, attended a London theatre, went to see the Tottenham Hotspurs match, dined out in Park Lane and departed for Sweden on Sunday.

FRIDAY 7th SEPTEMBER. After assembling at the Barley Mow, Hersham, we went on to show the morris at a barn dance arranged by a group of Meditators, to which Alun now belongs.

SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER. Digger's tour started at the Plough, Blackbrook, with an audience of one man and a dog, went on to the Seven Stars, Leigh, and to the Cock, Headley. In the afternoon we danced at the Chertsey Agricultural Show. Tea was taken at Digger's home although Pam, being ill, had to ask Joan G. to preside. The evening tour was Maybury Arms, the Cricketers, Rowton and the White Hart, New Haw.

MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER. MCL meeting.

SATURDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER. Yateley's Day of Dance. Tim Cawdron writes: TVMM toured all day with Kennet M.M. and Fryern Morris Minors - a boys' side. That evening we all gathered in Yateley for an excellent tea. Massed dancing followed before a large crowd - including Roy Dommett - where Angus and Phil Williams performed Princess Royal, Oddington jig. The ensuing ale, held in a large hall with terraced seating, was both enjoyable and interesting with some novel dances led by the squire of the Earls of Essex M.M. and also Spring Grove M.M. performing their Seven Saxons in the Kingston tradition!

SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER. The Royal Oak, New Malden, won a national good pub contest and celebrated it. We, a brass band and Willie Rushton attended to help them do so.

FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER. The Ship, Weybridge, had a celebration for holding a licence for a long period. We were engaged to help entertain. Having to call on a musician rather late we made a late start. Thereafter the show was a big and strenuous success. We gave our quite considerable bag to the charity the licensee supported.

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER. John G's tour through the Surrey hills including Wootton and Abinger. After tea, taken with Joan and John, the men separated to attend several dances.

WEEKEND 12 - 14 OCTOBER. Godshill instruction weekend. We had a small attendance this time. Wheatley tradition was studied.

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER. Surrey Beekeepers presidential dinner at the Refectory, Guildford Cathedral. The president is our Mrs Furness. We and some excellent choral singers provided the entertainment. As well as the company, the food and seeing the beautiful hall, we enjoyed the many excellent wines made by the beekeepers. Andy and Tim returned early from Godshill to join our team.

SUNDAY 21st, OCTOBER. Morris at the Metalbox factory at Palmers Green on the North Circular Road. This was another Lipton Agency engagement. The firm was celebrating fifty years of trading. Their employees are Greek, West Indian and Asian as well as English. Each group had displays and provided examples of their national music and dancing. Travel along the North Circular Road is, as always, unpleasant. Traffic conditions were such that Siward arrived just as we were leaving!

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 26th October 1979.

- 1 . The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrence and Norman Keam.
2. There were present Lester Bailey, Alun Jones, Robert Peace, Mike Jenkins, Malcolm Hendra, Jack Garwood, Tim Cawdron, Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister, John Hall, Malcolm Snowdon, Derek Paynter, Jan Lucas, Graeme Thompson, Bill Ellis, Peter Jones, Mark Jones, Francis Smith, Christopher Thomas, Jim Brooks, John Glaister, Mike Vardy, Andy Melville,

Bill Tofts, Phil Underwood and Cyril Smith. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Steve Ashcroft and Dick Chaundy.

3. The minutes of the 1978 AGN were printed in the November '78 Newsletter and were taken as read. Andy signed a copy as being correct.

4. Under Matters Arising mention was made of the change from Shere to Thaxted of the Oddington Ring instructional meeting; of the Morris Clubs of London instructional meeting at Weston Green, of the visit in August of the Swedish party; of the morris holiday in Pembrokeshire, and the failure to find a convenient time to invite a visit from the King Alfred's Men.

5. Under Correspondence the bagman reported messages from the Sandown Park organiser, from the Lipton Agency, from the Cranford correspondent, from the licensee of the Foley and from Annon Duernberg in Australia. Detailed consideration was given to the Ring circulars. The bagman drew attention to a number of advertising circulars.

6. Bagman's Report. In addition to the simple record of the club's activities set out in the Log (and taken as read) the bagman reported on his attendance at M.C.L. meetings, at Twinning Guild meetings and, together with Ron Horsley as musician, at the Wednesday practices in the Foley. The report was accepted.

7. Treasurer's Report. Alun Jones apologised for being unable to present an up-to-date statement of the club's finances: many payments and receipts were outstanding. Also, since he could not continue as treasurer, he would prepare the complete statement for handing over to his successor at the year's end. Money in hand £500. It was resolved to continue all the club's affiliations and authorisation was given for the following payments: Ring £10, Elmbridge Arts Council £3, Twinning Guild £1, MCL £3, EFDSS £8.8. It was resolved to make a £20 donation to the Vaughan Williams Library. The report was accepted.

8. Squire's Report. Andy spoke gratefully of all the help he had from many individuals as well as of the support he had had from his clubmates. He spoke of our successful ventures and of the one or two less successful. He spoke of the style and standard, of dancing and his plans for improving them. He spoke, also, of his pride in being Squire of TVMM.

9. Elections. Alun repeated that he could not continue as Treasurer. Members regretted this and thanked him warmly for looking after the money for several years. Lester Bailey was elected unanimously as treasurer. Andy Melville was re-elected squire. Cyril Smith was re-elected bagman.

10. Membership. Clive McDowell, Angus Stewart, Peter Taylor, Mike Jenkins and Jan Lucas danced themselves into the side on Boxing Day and Mark Jones did so during the Pembroke holiday. The club numbers 39 active members, several inactive ones and many country members.

11. Activities. Consideration was given, as a preliminary to a fixtures meeting to be held at a later date, to a number of plans for the following year. It was decided: to apply for places at

the Silurian and Bristol Ring meetings; how to arrange the Boxing Day tour; to attend the MCL Fools' Workshop; the dates of the two Godshill weekends; to have the traditional Hock Tide on 12th April '80 (list of teams to be invited compiled); to help entertain French visitors in May; to consider a Paris trip later; to attend Pyrford Spring Fling if invited; to have the morris holiday 2 - 9 August next (list of possible resorts compiled); to go to the Cotswolds 23 - 25 August.

It was also decided to carry out an engagement by the Lipton Agency in January and to accept the invitation to the Broadwood Day on 17 May. The East Suffolk, Exeter and Taunton Deane invitations were, regretfully, declined.

12. Motions. A motion dealing with the club's organisation was not seconded and so was not debated.

13. Any Other Business. Mention was made of the scrap book being kept by Jim Brooks. Jim asked for cakes for Boxing Day. The Mummers Play was discussed and it was decided to play it once on Boxing Day. It was thought we should include more jigs in the repertory. Bill Ellis thanked his clubmates for support for his Year of the Child dancing. Bill Tofts brought a message from his wife Jane and warm good wishes for recovery from illness were sent to her. A new design for the pectoral badges was discussed. Dave Dearsley's walk at Frensham was announced. Mark Jones asked for a side to dance at Lincoln Arms, Weybridge, on 18th November.

A fixtures meeting was fixed for Friday 14 December and the meeting closed 11.50pm (Signed) A.M.

SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER. CDS tour. From Blackbrook we drove through the beautiful autumnal woods of the Surrey hills to Shere. We danced here, inside the Prince of Wales - rather unusually and at the invitation of a new licensee - and in the village square. We had dancing and tea at Newlands Corner - bagman explaining the morris to a group of Chinese visitors - and finished the evening with drinking and dancing at the Black Swan, Martyrs Green, and the Seven Stars, Ripley.

SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER. TVMM and families and friends gathered at Elm Farm, Claygate, for a bonfire party. This was a great success. Plenty of fireworks, beer and wine. Some went off to the Foley, some for fish and chips and a return to the warmth of the fire to sing till midnight.

THURSDAY 22nd NOVEMBER. Amnon Duernberg, originally of Perth M.M.(Australia), some time of TVMM and now of Sydney M.M.(Australia), arrived to stay with the bagman for a week after a business trip to the U.S.A.

SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER. Dave Dearsley writes, in his usual pro forma way: Thames Valley Walk. Route: Hindhead - Thursley - Tilford. Lunch at Duke of Cambridge, Tilford. Frensham - Whitmore Vale - Hindhead. In attendance: Digger, Jill Glaister, Helen Glaister, George, Amnon, Mike and Val Vardy, Mike and Fay Jenkins, Angus, Graham, Linda, Cyril, John and Joan, Jack and Catharine. Remarks: Weather dismal but at least the rain kept off.

The prospect of a Gales pub at lunch time drew out a surprising number of people. The walk was hard but enjoyable. The general feeling was that we should do something similar next year.

TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER. MCL meeting. TVMM bagman elected chairman.

MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER. A few days earlier, sadly, Jane, Bill Tofts' wife, died. A number of us went with our wives to the cremation service at Woking. Jane has been with us on morris excursions, holidays and parties many, many times. Such was her personality, we all loved her.

MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER. John G. instructs in morris at an evening institute class which includes women. We made up a side to go along this evening to show the morris.

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER. Pyrford Folk Dance Christmas party. TVMM attended. Andy, in his Newsletter, described this event as a cross between "Come Dancing" and "Gunfight at the OK Corral".

FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER. Andy had a side to show the morris at his firm's Christmas party. Such was the refreshment that Andy could not attend the planned fixtures meeting of TVMM in the evening. His clubmates did so but very late. However some plans were made.

MONDAY 17th DECEMBER. As in earlier years we had a side attend a party for handicapped people in a club at Woking. Francis' Margaret helps at this club and we were glad to accept her invitation to help entertain.

WEDNESDAY 26th DECEMBER. Boxing Day tour in Claygate. The weather was dry with a chilly breeze. At the Swan, where we started, a big crowd came early. More and more people gathered as the morning went on. At the Hare the crowd numbered hundreds. Dick Chaundy, Tim Cawdron, Mike Freedman, Jack Garwood danced their jigs and Mark Jones did his entry jig again for film purposes. Robin Aitken of Spring Grove M.M. was our only visitor and danced from time to time. At the Griffin, Tim and CDS performed the Oxdans, learned in the summer from the Swedish visitors. Some of the men rested and chatted in the Griffin well into the afternoon. The bag amounted to more than £100.

The club is as strong as ever. Occasionally a man moves away and is replaced by an apprentice. The apprentice practices continue weekly at the Foley, CDS instructing and Ron Horsley playing. Ron also helps several men with music: Lester Bailey is making excellent progress on melodeon. TVMM continues affiliation to several organisations, notably the Elmbridge Twinning Guild with the French town of Rueil-Malmaison. CDS is a committee member of this Guild.

The Sidney Lipton Agency engages TVMM from time to time to show the morris in plush hotels: these engagements are fun and profitable.

TVMM join with one another and the families in many activities apart from the morris. Graeme and two of the Mikes and their wives and some friends constitute the Claygate

Cloggies. The name is slightly a misnomer but is a pleasant alternative. Siward and Peter J. go gliding. They with Francis play hockey together. Several men play squash together. Dave and Blob also Tim and CDS go Sunday morning dog walking and drinking. Is it fanciful to think that this close friendship among the men produces better team morris when the men dance together?

During 1979 several members' families have been blessed with offspring. Mothers and babies doing well.

LOG 1980 THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN

SUNDAY 6th JANUARY. The landlord of the White Hart, New Haw, arranged dancing during the midday hours in aid of charity. Eleven men turned out. Siward, arriving late because of car trouble, could only contribute a jig.

SATURDAY 19th JANUARY. During the day Graeme kept open house to celebrate the birth of his daughter. TVMM attended in considerable numbers.

In the evening nine of us showed the morris at a church party in Andy's village of Harmondsworth. We finished the evening with some social dances.

MONDAY 21st JANUARY. Morris Clubs of London meeting. At this meeting, the first under the chairmanship of CDS, the subject of women's performance at morris demonstrations was debated.

SATURDAY 26th JANUARY. Hired by the Lipton Agency we danced some morris, very briefly but profitably, at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre where a reception in connection with the Toy Fair was held. At the sponsors' request, we had a few of the guests join in a version of Lads a Buncham, Adderbury. It was a shambles but a bit of fun.

SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY. Robert Peace writes: The morning was spent exploring how the Fool could express himself to the crowd by the use of simple gestures directed towards other people. It is important for a Fool to be skilful to be successful and some basic clowning was displayed. After lunch those that had Fools' costumes added colour to the scene. The costumes ranged from the traditional smock and bladder to a web-footed bird and Beaux of London hobby-horse. The Fools explained how they saw their role in relation to their team. In the discussion it was felt that it was not part of a Fool's job to give facts about Morris to the audience as is sometimes the case. At the end of the afternoon Chris Harris was thanked warmly for his work on the Fools' Workshop.

TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY. MCL.

SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY. A party of about 30 went with Dave Dearsley on his walk starting at Farnham, going by riverside paths to Tilford, taking a pleasant lunch at the Donkey Inn and home again by field paths. Most successful.

FRIDAY 29th FEBRUARY. Ladies' Pleasure. A party of about 40 morris men and their ladies gathered at the Weybridge Day Centre for a splendid feast, provided yet again by Digger's Pam. Speeches and conversation followed.

SATURDAY 1st MARCH. An evening spent morrissing, singing and playing at the Otter, Ottershaw.

MONDAY 3rd MARCH. MCL.

SATURDAY 8th MARCH. Tim Cawdron and CDS attended the Saturday part of the Ring representatives meeting at Coventry. Subscriptions were increased, to £25 and Father Kenneth Loveless was elected next Squire of the Ring.

SUNDAY 9th MARCH. The midday hours were spent morrissing at the Bull, Shepperton, as part of an entertainment organised by the licensee in aid of a charity.

SATURDAY 15th MARCH. We showed the morris as an interlude in a barn dance at Woodham organised by Digger's squash club.

WEEKEND 21-23 MARCH. The Godshill study weekend. A small party studied the Wheatley tradition and added it to TVMM repertory.

SUNDAY 6th APRIL. TVMM morrised during midday and afternoon at a meet of traction engines and other vehicles at the Seven Stars, Ripley. One passing engine spewed smoke and ash over Ron Horsley who was unable to get out of the way because he always plays seated.

THURSDAY 10th APRIL. A Lipton engagement at Whitbreads Brewery in the City of London.

WEEKEND 11 - 13 APRIL. Tim Cawdron writes: TVMM descended on Worcester in good numbers as guests of the Faithful City Morris Men - who include ex-TV men Stan Kilby and Nick Oliver in their side.

Our base was a local primary school, where we all congregated on Friday night for a Border Morris instructional. On Saturday we toured local towns and villages including Kidderminster and Bewdley - in company with the Benfleet Hoymen and Forest of Deane M.M., greatly appreciating the fine weather and scenery. Late in the afternoon, all the invited sides joined in Worcester city centre for a procession and massed show dances - our show dance being Trunkles from Wheatley.

Back to the school for an excellent feast and ale in the evening, where the standard of singing and musicianship was exceptionally high.

Sunday also dawned fine. We processed to St Clements church for a service of thanksgiving and concluded our weekend with a thrash at the local pub.

We all agreed. that it was a first class weekend, enhanced by fine weather and relaxed but thorough organisation. We hope it will develop into a regular event.

SUNDAY 20th APRIL. The Wheatsheaf, Esher, celebrated St George's Day a little early and we supplied the morris during the midday hours.

WEDNESDAY 23rd. APRIL. St George's Day at the Hare and Hounds, Claygate. The Cloggies contributed to our programme of morris, singing and playing. (The public houses which celebrate St George's Day belong to an organisation called St George's Brewery).

FRIDAY 25th APRIL. A Lipton engagement at the Connaught Rooms, Queens St. London.

SATURDAY 26th APRIL. Hocktide Saturday turned out cold and dull with occasional scurries of rain. This had the effect of keeping the audiences very small. We had three tours.

One, East Surrey and Wheatsheaf, assembled and danced at the Plough, Worcester Park, travelled into Kingston Parish churchyard and, having danced there, lunched at the Bishop Outside Residence pub on the towpath. They then had a most successful thrash in Eden Walk, Kingston.

Grand Union and Yateley met at Sunbury Cross. This tour had been arranged by the Shepperton Arts Festival as publicity for their afternoon's activities. In the event little was seen of the Arts Festival people. The two teams morrised in Church Square, Shepperton, and then went on to Thames St., Sunbury. They danced there inside and outside the Magpie. Their afternoon thrash was in Walton shopping precinct. This tour's guide, Wild Bill, mistakenly kept them away from the tea stop till after 5pm and also managed to let two men go to Chobham instead of Cobham.

TVMM, Greensleeves and a big party of Spring Grove met and danced at the Bishop, Kingston, went on to the churchyard and then off to lunch at the Swan, Walton. The afternoon thrash was to have been to crowds at Hampton Court and Molesey Lock. There were no crowds. Heston joined the tour here.

Everyone joined the tea party at the Drill Hall, Cobham. Afterwards the company divided, parties going for an hour or so to the Bear, the Running Mare and the Plough, all in Cobham.

The evening Ale, with its beer, beef and pickles, followed the usual pattern being enjoyed (I hope) by upwards of a hundred men. John G. looked in but could not play because of some mysterious disability to his hand and arm. Three other old members, prevented from dancing and playing by reason of age and infirmity, were Gordon Smith, Jim Brooks and CDS.

MONDAY 28th APRIL. TVMM danced the morris at a publicity show at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London.

WEEKEND 1-4 MAY. Visitors from Rueil-Malmaison Conservatoire arrived on Thursday 1st May. TVMM were not required to accommodate any of the French visitors. On Friday there was a joint English/French concert at Brooklands College. Three TVMM served the wine. At the reception at the Weybridge Day Centre on the Saturday the three TVMM again acted as wine waiters. TVMM have a certain aptitude for handling liquor.

Meanwhile TVMM, as usual, showed the morris at the Pyrford Club's Spring Fling.

Also and meanwhile, a side danced at a village party at Harmondsworth.

SUNDAY 4th MAY. Lipton engagements, one at the Garden Court Hotel, Kensington, the other at Whitbread's Brewery in the City. TVMM carried out both successfully.

SATURDAY 10th MAY. Mick and Fay Jenkins gave a splendid wedding celebration party at the historic Nonsuch Palace, Cheam. Nearly all the folk dancers and singers in Surrey attended. TVMM showed a good deal of morris.

FRIDAY 16th MAY. TVMM have friends who are members of Surrey Dentists Association. We were the guests - and danced - at the Presidential dinner.

SATURDAY 17th MAY. TVMM attended the Saturday part of the Broadwood weekend, including the fea[s]t, and very much enjoyed it, as always.

WEDNESDAY 21st MAY. TVMM joined East Surrey to dance at Westminster Abbey. There were more morris men than spectators. TVMM finished the evening at the Hand in Hand, Wimbledon Common.

MONDAY 26th MAY. Tim Cawdron and CDS went to watch the morris at Bampton, spent the afternoon at Aldsworth, returned. to Bampton and then went on to see Headington Quarry M.M. on the way home.

SATURDAY 31st MAY. Dave Dearsley's (very strenuous) tour. It reads: Hop Broom, Farnham; Three Horseshoes, Thursley; Barley Mow, Tilford; Spotted Cow, Bourne; Frensham Little Pond (bathing); Tea at Dave's; Frensham Pond Hotel; Cherry Tree, Rowledge; Bat and Ball, Bourne!

FRIDAY 6th JUNE. A Lipton engagement at the Hilton, Park Lane, London.

FRIDAY 13th JUNE. Most regrettably, a confusion - significant date? We failed to turn up to show the morris at Hardwick Barn, the bagman believing the event was off .

SATURDAY 14th JUNE. A hurriedly arranged show at a party in aid of charity at Hardwick Barn. We hoped to have made amends for the failure of the previous night.

MONDAY 23rd JUNE. Bill Tofts nurses at the Middlesex Hospital entertained us in the hospital and afterwards we entertained them in nearby pub. All very charitable.

THURSDAY 26th JUNE. Morris at Hardwick Barn This time it was a private party and there were no midsummer celebrations.

SATURDAY 28th JUNE. Jack Garwood's tour which included showing the morris at his firm's sports day at Molesey. After tea with Jack and Catharine we morrised at the Plough and Harrow, Ditton Hill, and at Thames Ditton Tennis Club.

SATURDAY 5th JULY. Siward's (very local) tour around Byfleet. We had tea and swimming with Jenny and Siward.

THURSDAY 10th JULY. MCL.

SATURDAY 12th JULY. Morris during midday and afternoon at the Flower Festival at Andy's village of Harmondsworth.

SUNDAY 13th JULY. Shere Fair in the Square. TVMM were invited to morris. The whole lovely village was en fete, houses decorated the Tilling Bourne filled with flowers, all organisations giving shows, bands playing and pubs open all day. By 2.30 pm the rain was drenching down and, sadly we all went home.

FRIDAY 18th JULY. Babs and Cyril Smith celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a party in Arbrook Hall, Claygate. Over 200 friends attended including 40 morris men. CDS overwhelmed with everyone's kindness.

SATURDAY 19th JULY. Digger's tour took us first to Cobham then, for the midday hours to the Thatchers Hotel, Horsley. In the afternoon we showed the morris at the Paddock on Epsom Racecourse. After tea with Pam we danced at the Otter, the Golden Grove and the Vine, Chertsey. Incidentally, at this last the licensee stocks 32 brands of whiskey.

SUNDAY 20th JULY. Midday dancing at the Seven Stars, Ripley. (Was this the one with the traction engines?)

MORRIS HOLIDAY 2-9 AUGUST. On Saturday 2nd August a TVMM party of about thirty, men, women, children and dogs, gathered at the camp site on a farm conveniently situated between the George at Hubberholme and the Buck at Buckton [Buckden] in Upper Wharfedale, Yorks. One group's arrival was a little delayed by car overheating problems. Most of the tents were up before the rain started.

On Sunday we got in some coarse cricket before a successful morris thrash at the Buck at lunch time. Rain stopped cricket in the afternoon so we went for a swim in the Wharfe. This was a fairly strenuous activity because it was raining, the rocky banks are steep and the water very cold. It is noteworthy because John G. was a bather and this marks his recovery from a very serious illness of only two months earlier.

On Monday we went over the high fells to a very remote pub., the Gamecock. However rain was the cause of no crowd and no dancing. At Hawes we danced between storms and lunched. During another dry period we had a thrash at Bainbridge and tea. The evening was one of the very enjoyable music sessions at either the George or the Buck.

Tuesday was the big day at York. It was completely successful. By earlier arrangement we danced at the Castle, the Minster, the Museum and again at the Minster. The crowds in this

very busy tourist city were big. We met and drank with some of the Ebor Morris Men. Fish and chips and back to Upper Wharfedale.

It then rained uninterruptedly for two days.

We went to Haworth on Wednesday. The handful of more or less unreadable Bronte novels have given rise to a remarkable tourist industry in this small town. It was, however, far too wet to dance. Many of us spent the afternoon on a ride on the Worth Valley Light Railway which, we discovered, had been used for making the film 'The Railway Children.' Mark had to admit to a passion for Jenny A'getter [Agutter] and CDS confessed to an admiration for Dinah Sheridan!

Thursday was the off day. A walking party made the traverse from Kilnsey over the fells to Malham, being picked up then for their return. Another party went swimming in Skipton Indoor Pool.

During the night CDS, in falling, broke a tent pole. With Tim he spent a frantic 20 minutes keeping the tent up while fitting a new pole. Andy slept soundly through the turmoil.

Friday we went to Skipton. Alun Jones joined us briefly. We had two very successful dance stops and then went off, en masse, to swim in the well known Skipton pool. On the way back to Hubberholme we had a final, most enjoyable, fling at Grassington.

Phil stayed on in Wharfedale for a day or two. The Horsleys and Glaisters went further north for a week (to Attonburn, our old haunt) and all the rest of us went safely home. There was a moment when it was almost not "safely." Travelling in convoy, CDS, parking and going back to speak to Andy and Tim, found his (automatic transmission) car following him, driverless.

Despite the rain the holiday was judged a success because of the good dancing and, as always, the good companionship.

WEEKEND 22 -24. AUGUST. The Cotswold weekend. The campsite this year was at the Kings Head, Withington. During the weekend TVMM visited and danced at Naunton, Guiting Power, Ashton, Northleach, North Cerney, the Roman Villa, Kelmscott and the Seven Tuns, Chedworth. At this last a new landlord had advertised our coming and so, instead of the usual sprinkling of onlookers, we had a crowd of some hundreds and therefore gave a show lasting more than two hours. This was made more easily possible because Ron Horsley had joined us for the day with his big accordion.

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER. Alun Jones had arranged a tour based on Warborough. The landlord in the pub. there had recently moved from our old haunt, the Tudor Close, Richmond. A small party, without Alun, made the journey returning in the early evening.

WEEKEND 5- 7 SEPTEMBER. The London Ring meeting. The Morris Clubs of London were hosts to this meeting. It had been organised by a sub-committee the most active member of which was the MCL bagman, David Embling. TVMM did not attend the meeting.

On the Friday Ring teams assembled at the City Polytechnic Institute for ale and dancing. CDS, as chairman MCL, was a member of the welcoming party. He attended on the Saturday as spectator, which included watching the massed dancing in Trafalgar Square, where Ivor Alsop danced himself out as Squire and Kenneth Loveless played himself in as Squire Elect. There was a successful feast and dancing at the Poly on Saturday evening.

Many morris men attended service in Westminster Abbey on Sunday morning. The meeting was very successful.

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER. TVMM showed the morris at the wedding reception at Claygate of Tom Prideaux and his bride. Tom occasionally plays his fiddle for the morris.

TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER. MCL.

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER. Mike Vardy's tour in the Ewell/Cheam area and including dancing, in the afternoon, at Steve Ashcroft's church party in Wimbledon. Alan Dean, of TYMM but now working and dancing with a club in Sussex and on a visit to his old home, was out with us.

MONDAY 29th SEPTEMBER. CDS had received an invitation to give morris instruction to a group of men in Ewell. They are members of a church group. He visited them intending to invite them to join TVMM. However they had been in existence as a club for 18 months, had met regularly and had a morris costume. It was arranged, therefore, that they should attend TVMM Wednesday practices and should receive TVMM instruction at their own meetings. This arrangement still continues. Occasionally a TV man joins them in their public dancing.

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER. Andy, Tim, Francis and Allan Goddard spent a very enjoyable day and evening feast with the Bedford Morris Men. With two Bedford men they danced as a side all day.

WEEKEND 10-12 OCTOBER. Godshill study weekend was attended by 14 men including Jim Brooks, John G. playing. The Lichfield tradition was the chief item.

WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER. MCL.

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER. Mark Jones' tour - Wimbledon, New Malden, Hampton Wick, tea with Mark, two Kingston pubs with singing

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER. TVMM family bonfire at Elm Farm, Claygate. Great fun.

WEEKEND 7 - 9 NOVEMBER. Lothian Morris Men invited TVMM to provide instruction in the Oddington tradition. Philip Underwood Tim Cawdron and CDS drove to Edinburgh on Friday 7th November arriving at 7pm. John Nuttall gave them a meal and then took them to a pub in the Leith dockland which was the last stop of the Beltane rapper tour. The Edinburgh men have two separate clubs with two practice nights for Cotswold morris and rapper although the membership is the same. Beltane rapped and the evening was a noisy, uproarious not to say bibulous one.

Throughout Saturday instruction in Oddington was given by Philip to Lothian M.M., Banchory M.M., Cumbria M.M. and two men from Glasgow one of whom was Norman Peacock, one time Squire-Elect of the Ring and known to CDS. Very good progress was made.

A drink was taken at the Diggers pub, next door to the 'Hearts' football ground. A 15 mile coachride took men and their womenfolk to a country hotel where, after an excellent formal feast, there was singing and morris and a little country dancing.

Returning on Sunday, the TVMM party turned aside to do a very pleasant circuit of the Lakeland mountains, the weather being fine. Then it was back to the motorway and home by 9pm. The Lothian M.M. met the whole cost of the expedition.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 21st November 1980.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrence and Norman Keam.
2. There were present Lester Bailey, Mike Vardy, Mike Jenkins, Steve Ashcroft, Tim Sharp, Christopher Thomas, Adrian Palmer, Bill Tofts, Allan Goddard, Tim Cawdron, Dick Chaundy, John Hall, David Dearsley, Francis Smith, Peter Jones, Mervyn Stanley, Ron Duncombe, Jim Brooks, Andy Melville and Cyril Smith. Apologies for absence were received from Graeme Thompson, Digger Glaister and Derek Paynter Also present in addition to the above were John Glaister, Philip Underwood, Malcolm Snowdon, Siward Glaister and Mark Jones.
3. The minutes of the 1979 AGM were printed in the November '79 Newsletter and were taken as read. Andy signed a copy as being correct.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. Under correspondence the bagman reported on communications from Elmbridge Arts Council, from Elmbridge Twinning Guild, from EFDSS including its magazines and on an application for membership. Detailed consideration was given to Ring circulars.
6. Bagman's Report. In addition to the account of the Club's activities set out in the Log (and taken as read) the bagman reported on his attendance at meetings of the MCL, the Twinning Guild, the Wednesday night practices, the London Ring meeting and the St Mary's (Ewell) practices. The report was accepted with thanks to the bagman
7. Treasurer's Report. The treasurer's report included statements of accounts for both 1979 and 1980. Cash in hand £185 as compared with last year's £287, turnover £1,732. The report was accepted with thanks to Lester for it and for his care of the money. It was resolved to continue all the club's affiliations and authority was given for the payment of EFDSS £12,

Ring £25, Elmbridge Arts Council £3, Elmbridge Twinning Guild £1, MCL £10. It was resolved to donate £20 to the Vaughan Williams Library.

8. Squire's Report. Andy, in a detailed speech, indicated his views about Ladies' Pleasure, Hocktide, Godshill study weekends, the visit to Worcester City, Bedford and Broadwood. He spoke of the hotel engagements, the Yorks holiday, the Cotswold weekend and the Saturday tours. He spoke of our finances. He was moderately satisfied with the standard of dancing but warned against complacency. He suggested renewal and greater care of costume. He spoke of our having become the authority on Oddington and having added Wheatley and Lichfield to our repertory. He expressed thanks to all his clubmates and mentioned one or two names in special connections. He spoke of feeling honoured by being Squire and urged support of the new squire and added his good wishes. The Squire's report was accepted with thanks to him for it and all he had done for the Club in his two years of office. It was resolved to acknowledge the support given to Andy by his wife, Jane.

9. Elections. Mike Vardy was elected Squire. C.D. Smith was re-elected Bagman and Lester Bailey re-elected Treasurer.

10. Membership. Mike Freedman, Dick Chaundy, Jack Gardwood [Garwood] and Tim Cawdron danced their jigs last Boxing Day. Apprentices are: Adrian Palmer, Allan Goddard, Martin Kiff, Malcolm Hendra, Murray Butcher, Christopher Thomas and Tim Sharp. Tim Sharp comes to TVMM from a club in Dubai, one of the Gulf States.

11. Activities. A number of invitations to dance were considered. Some were accepted and some declined. A planning meeting was fixed for Friday 12th December next.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

(signed) Mike Vardy.

WEEKEND 22 - 23 NOVEMBER. The Bristol M.M. had invited TVMM to visit them in order to show them the Oddington tradition. On this occasion we were able to send a full side of dancers with Jim Brooks to instruct and John G. to play. Travelling down on Saturday morning, TVMM gave a long day to instruction, spent a convivial evening at a pub in Westbury, were given food and accommodation by members of the Bristol club, had another practice session on Sunday morning and returned after lunch. The whole visit was very enjoyable and, we hope, valuable to our hosts.

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER. TVMM attended, as usual, the Pyrford Club's Christmas party in some strength and showed the morris.

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER. Dave Dearsley's walk. A party of about 15 assembled at the Devil's Punch Bowl, Hindhead, and walked over commons paths to Tilford and back. At one point some anxiety was felt when the party got itself into a military firing range. (Why shooting on Surrey Commons: why not in the wastes of Ben More Assynt?)

MONDAY 15th DECEMBER. As for several years past, Francis' Margaret arranged a party at Woking for a group of her mentally handicapped patients. 14 TVMM turned out to help the party along.

THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER. Claygate Boxing Day tour. Sunny and bright but a little chilly. Sizeable crowds gathered at each of the five Claygate pubs - except at the Hare and Hounds where the crowd was enormous, running into several hundreds. Each pub bar was, of course, packed tight to the doors. The bag was commensurate. Thirty morris men turned out including Tim Sharp, recently joining us from the Dubai (Gulf States) M.M. and four of the newly formed St. Mary's (Ewell) M.M. The latter took their first few tentative steps in public. Adrian Palmer danced himself into full membership with Nelson's praise, Ilmington, at the Foley. At the Hare Andy danced himself out and Mike Vardy danced himself in as Squire. The tour was the normal great success.

WEEKEND 22 - 23 NOVEMBER. The Bristol M.M. had invited TVMM to visit them in order to show them the Oddington tradition. On this occasion we were able to send a full side of dancers with Jim Brooks to instruct and John G. to play. Travelling down on Saturday morning, TVMM gave a long day to instruction, spent a convivial evening at a pub in Westbury, were given food and accommodation by members of the Bristol club, had another practice session on Sunday morning and returned after lunch. The whole visit was very enjoyable and, we hope, valuable to our hosts.

Comment (gratuitous, perhaps) by CDS .

While 1980 had no highlight, club activity continued strong throughout the year. This strength is, I think, underpinned by the continuing Wednesday night practices. Members of the club move house, produce babies and otherwise add to their domestic responsibilities, business demands more time and other pursuits claim more interest. From the Wednesday group, however, men move into morrissing with the main side at about the same rate. A number of the men attend on Wednesdays for a few weeks and then are seen no more: one wonders whether the reason is the difficulty of the stepping or the savagery of the instruction. Attendance on Wednesday is never less than eight.

Several men have attended regularly for years, notably Ron Horsley and Lester Bailey as musicians. Adrian Palmer danced his jig on Boxing Day. Three other apprentices dance fairly regularly with the seniors but prefer to widen their knowledge of the traditions that TVMM use before dancing their jigs. Mike Vardy, starting as a Wednesday apprentice, becomes squire for 1981. He was, therefore, come up through the ranks: a source of satisfaction to CDS. Most men, having reached a certain stage in accomplishment, spend Wednesday evenings with Jim Brooks, at his home, to acquire a final polish.

Andy Melville, during his two years as squire, revealed note-worthy gifts of leadership.

The morris holiday in Yorkshire was very successful, not only because of the excellent day in York and despite the appalling weather, but because of the happy time together of the bigish party.

Our forays into North Britain and the West Country to instruct in the Oddington tradition is a source of pleasure and mild pride to us.

We worry a little about our lucrative engagements at London hotels but take consolation from the reflection that we are, knowingly, taking an art form from its own setting to a different one. The Claygate Boxing Day tour is morris in its own setting but it may be thought that the proportion of watchers to performers (several hundreds to thirty) is also a little "dodgy."

However, change in folk dancing, as in all other activity, is inevitable and the morris has gone through changes from its early ritual character through its connection with the plays of the middle ages, through the period of being an almost universal pastime to the present time when it has become part showbiz, part minority sport.

It is certain that time will continue and it looks as if the morris will do the same.

Ewart Russell of Colchester M.M., on reading the above, wrote: "You state, for 21 - 23 March 'A small party studied the Wheatley tradition and added it to TVMM repertory.' But TVMM started it! After a long break, that is. You came to C.S.House in the sixties and demonstrated the tradition for Roy Dommett. Norman Peacock was the 1959 Bagman-Elect. Hark back to Headington when you and I were among the four candidates for the post that he could not take up."

LOG 1981 of the THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

FRIDAY 9th JANUARY. TVMM added the English morris to the entertainment at a banquet at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London's West End. As is usual at these engagements, there was a small Welsh male voice choir, an Irish group playing and dancing and a Scottish piper, in Highland dress. Occasionally the piper brings with him a dancer to perform Broadwords.

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY. TVMM attended a church party in Andrew's village of Harmondsworth. They showed the morris and joined the folk dancing.

MONDAY 19th JANUARY. Meeting of the Morris Clubs of London.

MONDAY 26th JANUARY. CDS attended a practice of the St Mary's (Ewell) M.M.

MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY. CDS again attended at Ewell.

TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY. Meeting MCL.

TUESDAY 3rd MARCH. CDS attended a practice at Wallington of school teachers preparing to teach their children in preparation for the East Surrey Children's Festival. CDS instructed in morris and the Flamborough Stick dance.

MONDAY 9th MARCH. CDS attended practice at Ewell.

TUESDAY 10th MARCH. CDS attended practice at Wallington.

THURSDAY 12th MARCH. Mike Freedman, a teacher, had TVMM show the morris at a parent/teacher party at Epsom.

SATURDAY 21st MARCH. TVMM spent the whole day studying morris in the Foley Hall, Claygate.

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL. Bill Ellis spoke on the morris to a Scout group at Staines, CDS supporting.

SATURDAY 11th APRIL. Mike Vardy attended the Ring Representative meeting.

SUNDAY 19th APRIL. Jim Bartlett (Ravensbourne M.M.) was in the second day of his marathon dance from Orpington to Worcester, about 700 miles. Phil Underwood (TVMM) walked with him, playing his concertina, the 18 miles between Ewell and Datchet. TVMM met Jim at Sunbury and danced during his lunch stop.

24-26 APRIL TVMM had a dozen men attend the very enjoyable weekend at Worcester at the invitation of the Faithful City M.M. The dancing and singing and eating and drinking were, as usual, splendid. The journey home, however, was another matter. We ran into very heavy snow storms on the Cotswolds, ran into snowdrifts and took hours getting through.

SATURDAY 25th APRIL. In the absence of TVMM in Worcester, the hotel engagement at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London, was carried out, most helpfully and well, by London Pride M.M.

FRIDAY 1st MAY. As so many times before, TVMM showed the morris and joined the dancers at Pyrford's Spring Fling.

SATURDAY 2nd MAY. After continuing their traditional morris dancing at Hocktide in Kingston Parish churchyard during the afternoon, many TVMM went off to Chris Thomas' wedding at Ashstead and to dance at the reception. On the same evening Elmbridge Twinning Guild were entertaining their guests from Rueil-Malmaison at Weybridge and three TVMM were there to serve the wine.

MONDAY 4th MAY. This engagement to show the morris at the Intercontinental Hotel at Marble Arch, London, followed the usual pattern but was arranged through a new agency.

FRIDAY 8th MAY. TVMM had decided for this year to dance out at pubs occasionally on practice nights. This was the first one. It was arranged by Peter Jones in the Weybridge area.

SATURDAY 16th MAY. TVMM sent a small party to join, for the Saturday, the Broadwood M.M. weekend.

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY. This was TVMM turn at the Westminster Abbey dancing. As usual we paused for dancing and drinking at Wimbledon on our way home.

FRIDAY 22nd MAY. Friday evening tour in Walton and East Molesey.

SATURDAY 30th MAY. Phil Underwood's tour in the Camberley and Woking area. A Canadian family had gone to some trouble and come some distance to be with us for the day. Phil had them join the morris men for tea in the afternoon and, so that they could stay on for the evening singsong, the family booked themselves into an hotel in Woking for Saturday night.

SATURDAY 6th JUNE. Dorking had arranged for itself a folk dance festival for the afternoon and TVMM provided the morris spot in it.

FRIDAY 12th JUNE. TVMM showed the morris and joined the dancing at Hardwick Barn where John G. was calling a dance.

SATURDAY 13th JUNE. Tim C's tour. During the two-hour lunch stop at Thatchers Hotel, Horsley, TVMM were joined by Pilgrim M.M. who were in the neighbourhood. Tea was taken at Tim's pleasant riverside home. The evening continued in Chertsey.

FRIDAY 19th JUNE. John G. was calling a dance for foreign students at London University, Brunswick Square, and TVMM attended to show the morris.

SATURDAY 20th JUNE. After carrying out engagements in Hersham and Hampton and after resting, TVMM went on to join the traditional midsummer celebrations which went on all night into the dawn of 21st June.

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE. People from Ockley in Surrey had settled in Connecticut, U.S.A. many years ago, possibly centuries, and the connection between the two places had continued. A big party of American visitors were staying in Ockley and a barbecue was arranged for them. TVMM attended, enjoyed the barbecue and showed the morris.

26 - 28 JUNE. Alan Dean (TVMM) now lives and works at the Observatory at Hurstmonceux in Sussex. He dances with and has recently become Squire of Mad Jack M.M. This club arranged a weekend of morris and TVMM attended with several other sides. All were non-Ring sides and some of them women's teams. There was interest, as well as enjoyment, in watching non-Cotswold morris and the performances of the women.

MONDAY 29th JUNE. The landlord of the White Hart, New Haw, had TVMM dance for his charity on this evening. There was also a meeting of MCL.

THURSDAY 2nd JULY. TVMM again showed the morris at a banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel, Marble Arch, London.

FRIDAY 3rd JULY. Siward. G. teaches at Ewell Technical College and TVMM showed the morris at a party there.

SATURDAY 4th JULY. John and Joan Glaister celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at party arranged for them by their family and TVMM attended in some strength.

THURSDAY 9th JULY. As several times before, TVMM danced some morris at Middlesex Hospital which had been arranged by Bill Tofts.

SUNDAY 12th JULY. It was the turn of TVMM to supply the morris at the folk festival arranged by the West Surrey EFDSS District in the beautiful grounds of Polden Lacey. This we did with great success and enjoyment.

SATURDAY 18th JULY. John Hall's tour in the Ripley. We had tea at John's home.

FRIDAY 24th JULY. A Friday evening tour in Wimbledon arranged by Steve A.

SUNDAY 26th JULY. TVMM showed. the morris at celebrations at Andy's old school at Worcester Park.

WEDNESDAY 29th JULY. The diary shows that TVMM danced at Weston Green on this day but the writer has no recollection of it.

31 JULY - 2nd AUGUST. It had been necessary to change plans for this tour. A weekend holiday near Bath was substituted for a proposed tour in Dorset. Tim Cawdron writes: Bill Tofts had arranged as our campsite a pleasant field adjacent to the river Avon near Kelston, just outside Bath. Those who ventured down on Friday evening faced - not for the first time this year - erecting tents in darkness and heavy rain. How Bill T. manages to remain so cheerful in such conditions is a mystery and inspiration to us all . Sorrows were drowned at the 'Crown' at Kelston.

Saturday morning dawned fair, revealing TVMM distributed equally between the top and bottom of the field having missed each other in the previous night's murk. A happy hour was passed installing the lavatory tent in a bed of nettles before we all headed off to the 'Globe' at Newton St Loe followed by lunch at the 'Ring o' Bells' in Hinton Blewett. Crowds were small but appreciative. After a successful thrash at the Chew Valley lake we returned to the campsite where a few hardy souls went swimming in the Avon. In the early evening we danced at some nearby cottages for Bill's friends, then on to the 'Crown' again.

Sunday morning brought continued fine weather. John thought he saw a body fished out of the Avon during the night but couldn't be certain. After a swim we all made for Bath for a very successful and lucrative session near the entrance to the Baths. After lunch at the 'Crystal Palace' we all went our separate ways - some going home, others continuing their holidays .

Allan and Linda, later that day, were called in to ferry a wounded man to hospital who had been shot accidentally whilst rabbiting. The incident made the centre pages of the Daily Telegraph, no less.

All in all, everyone agreed that the weekend was a great success despite the limited numbers present and our thanks are due to Bill for organising it at short notice. Let us hope that next year an increased attendance will be possible for the morris holiday.

SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST. Dick Chaundy organised a morris boat trip on the Thames. An accident to his baby and the need to stay and look after her prevented him going on his own trip. A party of about 30 morris men and families cruised on the reaches of the Thames between Kingston and Molesey, dancing and singing on board and stopping off to dance at various pubs and other places between times. The whole trip was very successful and enjoyable: TVMM are determined to repeat it.

29 - 31 AUGUST. The Cotswold weekend, which TVMM have taken for so many years, was, this year, specially successful. Numbers were high, weather was good, the campsite at Withington as pleasant as ever and the welcome at the Kings Head as warm. We visited our usual places including the Roman Villa and the Seven Tuns at Chedworth, where the crowd was as big as it has become in recent years. Senior members noted with satisfaction that the standard of dancing is getting back to its former high standard.

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER. TVMM danced at a party at the White Hart, New Haw.

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER. TVMM's Day of Dance and Ale. Our guests were Bedford M.M., Grand Union in considerable strength, and London Pride somewhat fewer in number. Cup Hill M.M. joined us in the evening. There were three tours. One spent the day in Richmond where, for a short while in the afternoon, they were persuaded to dance at a private fete. Another tour was mainly in the Surrey hills including Shere. The third started at Ashstead and travelled to the Ripley area. After an early evening pub thrash all the men foregathered at the Drill Hall, Cobham, for the traditional beef, beer and dancing.

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER. TMMM were glad to join Yateley M.M. and their visitors for a very enjoyable day - except for the late afternoon massed dancing when the rain bucketed down for the whole session.

MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER. MCL meeting.

SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER. TVMM bagman had been able to arrange for morris to be shown in Mays Court, adjacent to the Coliseum Theatre in Trafalgar Square, during the weekend of the English Opera Company's Music Marathon. Hammersmith M.M. danced during the midday hours and in the afternoon. The session became boisterous and finished up with an enormous game of musical chairs!

On the next day **SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**, the Beaux of London City M.M. occupied Mays Court and gave a very good demonstration of the morris. They also showed some clogging.

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER. On our many visits to Withington we have made donations to the parish church there. Most interestingly a new peal of six bells had been hung. TVMM were invited to the dedication service. We attended and, afterwards, danced at the party in the village hall. We hastened back to Chertsey to dance, as we thought, at a charity function but found that the whole thing was a figment of Wild Bill's imagination!

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER. Bill Tofts represented TVMM at a thanksgiving service in Kingston Parish Church. We had been invited because of our occasional gifts to the church funds.

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER. TVMM were engaged to show the morris at a barn dance held in the big hall at the Burford Bridge Hotel.

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER. Digger's tour in the Weybridge area.

16-18 OCTOBER The rather poorly attended study weekend at Godshill. Roy Dommett was able to be present and much useful practice was put in).

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER. Dave Dearsley arranged one of his walks over the Surrey commons at Frensham and eight sturdy walkers enjoyed the day.

THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER. TVMM were engaged to show the morris to an enormous crowd of visiting Americans at the very fine Commonwealth Institute in Kensington. We danced for short periods at various points in the building and finished with a show in the big central platform stage.

FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER. Ladies Pleasure at the Arbrook Hall, Claygate. Mike Vardy arranged a splendid meal and thereafter as well as folk dancing we all did our party piece. This pattern for event was very enjoyable and we look forward to doing it again.

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER. The now traditional bonfire party at Elm Farm, Claygate, was a great success.

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER. Through the Faithful City M.M the West Midlands Federation of Morris Clubs had arranged an instructional meeting in Worcester. TVMM sent a team. Jim Brooks taught, John G. supplied the music and the side demonstrated the Oddington tradition. About 50 men received instruction and the organisers wrote saying they were pleased with what TVMM had done. At the ceilidh in the evening John G was the caller.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 20th November 1981.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrence and Norman Keam.
2. Present: Mike Vardy, Lester Bailey, Jan Lucas, Mike Freedman, John Hall, Malcolm Snowdon, Christopher Thomas, Andy Melville, Tim Cawdron, Tim Sharp, Adrian Palmer,

Bill Tofts, Allan Goddard, Dick Chaundy, Paul Goddard, Siward Glaister, Mark Jones, Jim Brooks, Malcolm Hendra, Digger Glaister, Graeme Thompson, Derek Paynter, Murray Butcher, Robert Peace and C.D.Smith. Apologies for absence were received from John Glaister, Francis Smith, David Dearsley and Steve Ashcroft.

3. The minutes of the 1980 AGM were printed in the November 1980 newsletter and taken as read. Mike Vardy signed a copy as being a true record.

4. Arising out of the Minutes it was pointed out that mention should have been made of the club's appreciation of Andy's production (as Recorder) of the Newsletter.

5. Under correspondence the bagman reported on communications from Elmbridge Arts Council, from Elmbridge Twinning Guild and from the EFDSS including its magazines. Detailed consideration was given to the Ring circulars.

6. Bagman's Report. In addition to the account of the Club's activities set out in the Log (and taken as read) the bagman reported on his attendance at the meetings of the Morris Clubs of London, on his contacts with the Twinning Guild, on the Wednesday night practices and the attendance of the St Mary's (Ewell) M.M. at them. The bagman also mentioned the receipt of copies of "The Morris Dancer" [there's a gap here] the lawsuit in which the Lothian M.M. were likely to be involved regarding the collection of money. He spoke of the success of the dancing by Hammersmith M.M. and the Beaux of London City M.M. at the Coliseum in connection with the English National Opera Company event which it had fallen to him to organise. The report was accepted with thanks to the bagman.

7. Treasurer's Report. Lester submitted the statement of accounts for 1981. Cash in hand amounted to £240 with a turnover of £1,500. The report was accepted with thanks to Lester for its preparation and his care of the money. It was much regretted that he was giving up the post of Treasurer. It was resolved to continue all the Club's affiliations and authority was given for the payment to EFDSS £8.80, Morris Ring £25, Elmbridge Arts Council £3, Elmbridge Twinning Guild £5 and any sum required by the Morris Clubs of London. It was resolved to donate £20 to the Vaughan Williams Library and the (traditional) gift of a tankard to Andy to mark his totally successful period as Squire of the Club.

8. Squire's Report. Mike spoke of the Club's busy year: the men had danced out on more than 40 occasions. He felt the men had not given sufficient time to practising together and suggested that at the two Godshill seminars might, the first, be used for revision and, the second, to the extension of the repertory. Mike thanked all the men for their help and support and spoke gratefully of the tour leaders. The report was accepted with thanks to Mike for his leadership.

9. Elections. Mike Vardy was re-elected Squire, Andy Melville was re-elected recorder and C.D.Smith was re-elected bagman. Christopher Thomas was elected Treasurer.

10. Membership. No new members joined in 1981. Chris Thomas danced his jig into full membership on 13th June 81. [?Not in the log for that day]

11. Planning. A number of forward dates were considered. It was decided not to dance at Woking on 12th December, not to accept the invitation to Ashdown Forest in May nor to undertake the demonstration at Shepperton in July. All other dates would be discussed again at a fixtures meeting.

12. Under Any Other Business a wide range of subjects was discussed, with a view to future action on them, and included: cakes for Boxing Day; pictures for the Scrapbook; the possibility of a Club dance at Byfleet next March; the use of the Foley Hall for the "Godshill" seminar and the possibility of inviting members of other clubs to it; the payment of expenses to members; the need for new hats; the arrangements for next year's morris holiday. A fixtures meeting was fixed for Wednesday 9th December at the Foley Hall.

The meeting closed at 11.15pm.

[Signed Mike Vardy]

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER. Morris as usual at the Pyrford Christmas party.

MONDAY 14th DECEMBER. TVMM were to have helped at the party for handicapped children at Woking (Francis' Margaret being a helper there) but the party was cancelled because of the appalling weather.

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER. Boxing Day tour of the Claygate pubs. The weather was somewhat warmer, after a long spell of low temperatures, but ice proved troublesome at the Hare and Hounds. The crowds were as big as we have come to expect and the bag consequently satisfactory. 24 TVMM turned out and 5 St Mary's (Ewell) M.M. Allan Goddard, Tim Sharp and Murray Butcher danced their jigs into full membership. St Mary's M.M., with a little help, returned to the Swan to do a thrash on their own. Alan Dean (TVMM and Mad Jack M.M.) was visiting and he and Andy did a remarkably good Go and Enlist for a Sailor duo. Jim Brooks got through no fewer than five of his fertility cakes!

:Comments on the year's activities by CDS can be very brief.

TVMM danced the morris throughout the year, the programme of events followed the usual pattern, all arrangements were successful, the standard of dancing, though not superlative, was acceptably high and the companionship as warm as ever. Club membership remained steady.

LOG 1982 of the THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

Monday 11th January. Morris Clubs of London meeting.

Saturday 30th January. A well attended, day long study session at the Foley Hall, Claygate.

Monday 8th February. TVMM attended the party for handicapped people led by Francis' Margaret. This party had been postponed, because of appalling weather.

Friday 26th February. Tim Cawdron and C.D.S. represented TVMM at a function in Bedford when Bedford M.M. celebrated their half century of existence (or was it longer?). The big company included many notable morris men.

Saturday 6th March. Jirn Brooks and C.D.S. attended the Saturday sessions of the Ring A.G.M. held at Northampton. Barry Care of Moulton M.M. became Squire Designate.

Monday 8th March. MCL meeting.

Saturday 3rd April. Day long study session as successful as the January one.

16 - 18 April weekend. A strong TVMM party attended the Worcester weekend. The Faithful City M.M. provided everything for accommodation, food, drink, dancing and good companionship. Our guides on the tour were Stan Kilby and Nick Oliver, formerly of TVMM.

Sunday 18th April. John Glaister arranged and called a dance for his professional association in Bognor. TVMM showed the morris, some of the men having travelled from Worcester to do so.

Saturday 24th April. Francis arranged for TVMM to dance in the morning at an Arts exhibition in Chertsey. It proved very strenuous but enjoyable.

Sunday 25th April. David's Sunday walk. A small party enjoyed a wonderful sunny day. The start was at the fine Winkworth Arboretum.

Tuesday 27th April. MCL.

Saturday 1st May. After assembling and dancing at the Bishop Outside Residence pub on the towpath at Kingston we went on to dance in Kingston Parish churchyard. This took the place of our annual Hocktide meeting there. Crowds were small because of changes in Kingston's traffic arrangements.'

Sunday 2nd May. TVMM attended again the traction and motor engine show outside the Seven Stars, Ripley. Here, yet again, we enjoyed the dancing but few other people were there to do so.

Friday 7th May. Pyrford Spring Fling as usual.

Saturday 15th May. Dave's tour took us round the Surrey villages Rouledge, Batts Corner, Frensham, Bourne and Tilford. The tour was well attended, well arranged and greatly enjoyed.

Saturday 29th May. A small TVMM party danced at the Wheatsheaf, on Esher Green, and at Esher Rotarian's May Fayre. Extremely hot but enjoyable.

Monday 31st May. Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Tim Cawdron and C.D.S. made the annual pilgrimage to watch the tradition sides of Bamton and, later in the evening, their several visiting teams including one from Boston, Mass, U.S.A. The afternoon was spent with C.D.S.'s daughter at Shilton. On the way home we called in to watch Headington Quarry and Westminster. Tim Lloyd, formerly TVMM, is a Westminster apprentice.

Saturday 5th June. Steve's tour in the Wimbledon area started rather sadly with only four men to dance jigs. Numbers increased as the day wore on and in the evening were further augmented by four Greensleeves men.

Sunday 6th June. C.D.S. joined the Ring archival team on a visit to Mr Hugh Carey at Crawley near Winchester to discuss arrangements for the projected celebration of the centenary of Clive Carey's birth due to be held in May 1983.

Wednesday 9th June. The Wednesday Lot, instead of having a practice at the Foley, Claygate, assembled, with several other TVMM at the Woodman, Ashted, for a pub thrash.

Thursday 10th June. One Greensleeves man, one Springgrove man and C.D.S. turned up for a meeting of the Morris Clubs of London in London. No one else came: no explanation has so far been given for the failure of the meeting.

Saturday 18th June. TVMM showed the morris and the Abbots Bromley at the all-night party in Hardwick Barn.

Friday 18th June. Morris demonstration in Hardwick Barn at a dance where John G. was the caller.

Saturday 19th June. Blob's tour. Johnny H. had arranged a morning tour in the Epsom area and an evening tour in the Chertsey area, finishing up, yet again, at Hardwick Barn. In the afternoon, however, TVMM assisted at an enormous party in Chessington Zoo for around 1,200 (or was it 12,000?) handicapped children arranged jointly by the Metropolitan police and the Variety Club of Great Britain. TVMM danced all over the grounds, their children joined the visitors for free rides in the playground, the RAF dived out of the sky - and so on!

Wednesday 23rd June. TVMM's turn at Westminster Abbey. This was the rather dull affair it has now become. We went to the Buckingham for a drink afterwards.

Friday 25th June. TVMM had been invited to show the morris on this evening: other clubs had done so during the week. This was part of a week-long entertainment. TVMM being engaged, as under, St Marys (Ewell) M.M., our associated club, took our place with complete success.

Friday 25th June. Siward took a sizeable party of TVMM to morris at his college dance at Ewell 'Tech'.

Saturday 26th June. Springgrove's Day of Dance. TVMM joined with this comparatively new club in their first - and very successful - Day. Dancing took place in Kingston and Richmond and the teams were transported by coach. Rain was a little troublesome and gave rise to an amusing incident. Bill Tofts failed to join a coach and was lost for the rest of the day. This inspired the following in the poet, Steve Ashcroft:

One wet and rain-swept Saturday in the cruel month of June,

Thames Valley went a-dancing, 'twas the season of monsoon.

All was going very well 'mid storm and flood until,

Returning to the charabanc someone said "Where's Bill?"

We waited and we waited the rain stormed down and still,

We waited and we waited, but there was no sign of Bill.

Stout Michael eyed the weeping skies, and with an awful curse

Plunged into the tempest which was getting worse and worse.

At last we saw him creeping back and with a helpless shrug "Ah"

He said and wiped his eyes "There's no sign of the bugger."

But in the rain and Richmond, when disaster stalks the land,

There's a frightful, ghostly, soaking shape - the Wandering Morris Man.

At the very enjoyable feast, Springgrove Squire spoke of his satisfaction that his club is so firmly established that they could no longer be expected to join TVMM and he also spoke of his admiration of the TVMM dancing of the Sherborne tradition.

Saturday 3rd July. After a lunch time drink and dance in Ripley, Blob had a small party of his clubmates show the morris at his P.T.A's afternoon show. We went our ways at teatime.

Tuesday 8th July. The annual visit to Middlesex Hospital where TVMM had a little dancing for the patients and a little drink with the nurses. This event arises out of Bill Tofts' gratitude for the care given to Jane, his late wife.

9 - 11 July weekend. TVMM were glad to accept Mad Jack (Sussex) M.M's invitation to their weekend. It was very enjoyable. Mad Jack's foreman, our Alan Dean, has worked his men hard: their Oddington is as good as ours. This year the party was smaller, the only other visitors being Sussex University M.M. The ceilidh was great fun.

Saturday 17th July. Chris's tour. TVMM were joined by Cup Hill for most of this very successful day. Our dancing in the newly built town precinct at Leatherhead was very satisfactory. Chris and Cynthia provided tea for the whole party.

31 July - 7 August Morris Holiday Week This year TVMM went again to Brandy Brook in Pembrokeshire. Tim Cawdron writes:

Pembroke holiday was a great success and very relaxed. The 16 men + families appreciated the easy-going atmosphere and thanks are due to Mike for setting the pace of the holiday (about the same as his dancing) and to Paul for carrying the sticks. It was nice to see Angus again (having come from Rotterdam to join us) better prepared for camping this time having armed himself with a knife and fork with which to eat everyone else's food!

Saturday 14 August. Dick's boat trip. Starting at Cowey Sale, Walton, this year's voyage was downstream, dancing at the various riverside pubs and at Molesey Lock. In the evening the Weir Hotel was visited by land but rain made the stop less pleasant.

27 - 30 August. Cotswold weekend. As in recent years TVMM, numbering 20 men and unnumbered women, children and dogs, camped behind the Kings Arms, Withington. The "prestige" stop at Sudeley Castle, where was to be held an important function, was a disappointment for us - a long car ride and no audience. Thereafter the weekend followed its usual enjoyable pattern. Old TVMM Hughie Gibson and Nick Oliver joined us. The weather was good up to the evening at the Seven Tuns, Chedworth, dancing on Sunday. Here the musicians, anxious to return to the comfort of the bar, took the dancers through at a prodigious speed. This had the effect of producing an exceptionally exciting performance! On Monday we had a midday thrash at Kelmscott after which we dispersed, some to go home, some to stay for a few days in the Cotswolds.

Saturday 4th September. TVMM were engaged to dance at the Molesey Hospital fete. This they did, assembling and dancing beforehand at the Bell, East Molesey, taking tea with Catherine and Jack and going on to an early evening thrash at the Swan, Walton where more men joined them.

Saturday 11th September. This day's tour was intended to be with visiting clubs but, in the event, only St Marys (Ewell) M.M. were able to join us. We assembled and danced in Shere and went on to a lunch stop at the Volunteer, Gomshall. We had been pressed to morris at Chertsey Show, an enormous affair, as we had done in earlier years. Despite the distance we included it in our programme. We need not have done: two other morris sides turned up, one from Portsmouth. This excursion made us very late at our original objective, to dance for Friends of Richmond Park at White Lodge. Most of the many guests stayed on to watch the morris and the event turned out a success. The three pub stops were the Angel, Gigg's Hill Green, the Wheatsheaf, Esher Green, and finally the Alma, Weston Green. This last proved very enjoyable, despite the licencees gloomy prognostication! St Marys, I think, enjoyed the day out and found the experience valuable.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 24th September 1982.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrebe and Norman Keam.

2. Present: Mike Vardy, Derek Paynter, Chris Thomas, Allan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Bill Ellis, Bill Tofts, Malcolm Snowdon, Malcolm Hendra, Jim Brooks, Tim Caiwdron, Dick Chaundy, Francis Smith, David Dearsley, Robert Peace, Phil Underwood, Jan Lucas, Siward Glaister and C.D. Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Ashcroft, John Glaister, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Martin Kiff and Jack Garwood.

3. The minutes of the 1981 AGM were printed in the Newsletter 1981 and taken as read. Mike Vardy signed a copy as being a true record.

4. Matters Arising - None.

5. Under correspondence the bagman put before the meeting copies of the "Morris Dancer"; a report from Elmbridge Twinning Guild; documents relating to the Folk Directory; to Krov and to the proposed Clive Carey Centenary celebrations. The Ring circular, the notices of instruction meetings, catalogues of Ring cassettes and photographs were all considered.

6. Bagman's Report. The bagman reported on the apparent dissolution of the Morris Clubs of London; on the attendance of four TVMM at the Twinning Guild party for French visitors; on the lapse of TVMM's affiliation to the Elmbridge Arts Council; on the attendance at Wednesday night practices, including that of St Mary(Ewell) M.M.; on the need to replenish supplies of headed notepaper and posters. The report was accepted.

7. Treasurer's Report. Chris Thomas submitted the statement of accounts for 1982. Cash in hand £64, turnover £1,500. Chris spoke of difficulties in arranging finance and the meeting debated means of overcoming those difficulties in the coming year. It was resolved that anyone wanting to receive the newsletter should pay for it. The report was accepted and Chris was thanked for his preparation of it.

Later in the meeting the men authorised payment of subscriptions: to EFDSS £8.80, to the Ring £25, to Elmbridge Twinning Guild £5, and for the purchase of two tankards for Andy and Mike, the traditional gift of the club to retiring squires.

8. Squire's Report. Mike spoke briefly of the year's activities, of the relative success of tours as against the major events. He thanked his clubmates for their support during his year of office. The Squire's report was accepted and he was thanked for his help and leadership.

9. Elections. C.D. Smith was re-elected bagman. He announced that this was to be the last year in the office and that he would be asking for help in some of the duties with a view to handing over next year. Chris Thomas was re-elected Treasurer and Tim was re-elected Recorder.

John G., Tim (Cawdron), Mervyn and Phil were nominated for Squire-elect and, after balloting, Phil Underwood was elected to be Squire next year.

At this point in the meeting discussion became general and wide ranging. A motion to require members to pay an annual subscription was lost. It was resolved to increase the nightly

payment for hire of the Foley Hall to 30p. Payment for the Newsletter was again referred to. Jim Brooks asked for cakes to be made for Boxing Day. It was resolved to go ahead with Ladies Pleasure on Friday 22nd October as planned.

Consideration was given to trying to find new recruits to the side. A suggestion was made that men might like to make a donation to club funds to tide over present shortage. Time did not allow further discussion and, because several items of business remain to be dealt with, it was decided to call a general meeting to deal with them and to plan our programme for 1983. This will be held at 8pm on Friday 15th October '82 at the Foley Hall, Claygate. The meeting adjourned at 11.30pm.

Saturday 25th September. An enjoyable if unremarkable tour led by John G.

Weekend 8 - 10 October. This valuable study weekend at Godshill followed its usual course. Some men stayed over the weekend and some attended on the Saturday only.

Minutes of the Adjourned General and Fixtures Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 15th October 1982.

1. Present: Chris Thomas, Derek Paynter, Mike Vardy, Jim Brooks, Allan Goddard, Tim Cawdron, Jack Garwood, Murray Butcher, Dick Chaundy, Francis Smith, Phil Underwood, Malcolm Snowdon, Robert Peace, Bill Tofts, Adrian Palmer and Cyril Smith.
2. Notes on the meeting of 24th September were read.
3. Details regarding Ladies Pleasure were settled.
4. It was decided to go ahead with the bonfire party on Saturday 6th November '82.
5. That Sgt Marys M.M. had agreed to pay the 30p each for hire of the hall was noted.
6. The bagman proposed that in planning for 1983 two lists should be prepared - a List A to comprise firm commitments by the club for the yearly period and a List B to comprise short-notice, ad hoc engagements. This proposal was agreed to and the meeting proceeded to discuss and decide upon List A. A copy of it is attached [NO it isn't] and will be circulated to members when the results of invitations and applications are known.
7. It was decided not to accept engagements at Hammersmith on 30th October, at Weybridge on 18th June next, at Lyne on 25th June and at Hampton Court on 23/24th July. Nor at the Byfleet Day on 16th July.
8. Under Any Other Business Jim repeated his request for gifts of cake for Boxing Day, the order in which Pubs were to be visited on Boxing Day was decided upon, a suggestion that TVMM should add caps to their costumes for use on certain occasions was rejected, as also was a suggestion that the method of publishing the Newsletter be altered.

The meeting closed at 10.45 with an expression of thanks for his chairmanship to Francis.

Friday 22nd October. A party of about thirty men and their ladies, attended Ladies' Pleasure at Arbrook Hall, Claygate. We sang, danced, played, ate and drank through a most enjoyable evening.

Saturday 6th November. TVMM held their now annual bonfire party at Elm Farm, Claygate. Upwards of fifty people - men, women, children and dogs - put themselves at risk from great quantities of fireworks.

Friday 3rd December. TVMM showed the morris at an interval in the Pyrford Christmas party.

Monday 13th December. TVMM again helped Margaret at her party at Woking for disabled people.

Monday 27th December. TVMM Boxing Day tour of Claygate. The day was sunny and fairly warm. We assembled at the Swan and as we went through the village the crowds grew in size. At the Hare and Hounds Mike danced himself out as Squire and Phillip danced himself into that office. The three men waiting to dance their jigs were away to visit their families. Jan, also visiting at Tunbridge Wells, turned up 21 hours too early not realising the tour was on the Monday. We were glad to have Alan Dean (formerly TVMM now Mad Jack, Sussex) with us and he and his close friend Andy danced their accomplished Go and Enlist for a Sailor. The crowds were generous and the bag correspondingly full.

C.D.S's more or less gratuitous comments:

TVMM's fortunes drooped somewhat in 1982.

Attendances at practice have been poor, on one occasion a tour was badly supported, contact with other clubs has been small and the Wednesday night practices have come to an end. St Marys (Ewell) M.M. the time had come to go it alone.

Angus Stewart took himself off to Rotterdam, Rick Payne to Paraguay, Tim Sharp to Sumatra, Mark Jones to Norway, Andy Melville for weeks on end to Aberdeen and the North Sea, the bagman to hospital to have over-morrised knees repaired and Lester Bailey just took himself off .

And the club ran itself into debts.

The bigger occasions were, however, successful, the Cotswold Weekend and the Boxing Day tour remarkably so. In early August fifteen men, their families and at least three dogs, spent the morris holiday week at the excellent campsite at Brandy Brook in Pembrokeshire and enjoyed the excursions therefrom. Later in August, twenty men, their families, Hugh Gibson (now of Taunton Deane), and Nick Oliver (now of Faithful City) camped at the Kings Head

at Withington. The dancing at the Roman Villa and the Seven Tuns Chedworth were among the more successful.

Twentyeight men turned out for Boxing Day and danced for a bag that completely restored the club's finances.

TVMM seem set to continue their normal progress after a slight hiccough.

LOG 1983 of the THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN

Saturday 15th January. Study day at the Foley, Claygate. 16 men attended to polish performance and to restore to our repertory dances we have forgotten.

Saturday 12th February. A second day of study - as in January.

Saturday 26th February. Tim Cawdron and Cyril Smith attended for the day the Ring A.R.M. weekend held in Handsworth near Sheffield. Meeting and feast were useful and pleasant.

Sunday 13th March. A small party took a very enjoyable walk with David Dearsley in the Godalming area.

Sunday 10th April. A big party of men and their families spent a very pleasant midday at the New Inn Send.

Friday 22nd April. TVMM showed the morris at a country club at Silvermere, Byfleet, to a not very appreciative audience. Bag and victuals were good.

Saturday 23rd April. Hocktide. Reluctant to break our tradition despite changing circumstances TVMM danced in Kingston, first in the parish churchyard, during lunchtime on the towpath at the Bishop-outside-Residence and during the afternoon in the shopping precinct Eden Walk. As always we danced enjoyably and the day's bag was good.

Monday 25th April. A commercial engagement at the Holiday Inn, Slough. This time it was clear the guests enjoyed the morris enormously.

Sunday 6th May. As many times before, TVMM morrised at Pyrford's Spring Fling.

Friday 6th May. A small group of TVMM helped entertain visitors from Rueil-Malmaison, twin town of Elmbridge, at the reception in Weybridge.

Saturday 14th May. Murray Butcher's tour took us to pubs we have not used for many years. They were the Windmill at Hampton Hill, the London Apprentice at Isleworth, the White Swan at Twickenham, a club fete at Whitton and, after tea with Murray, two stops in Kingston.

Friday 20th May. Graeme and Digger have a folk dance band and on this date TVMM showed the morris at one of their cajun dances.

21st May Saturday. John G had some TVMM morris at a dance at which he was the caller.

Saturday 28th May. The Carey Centenary celebration in Claygate. This extremely important and successful event is described at length in the Newsletter.

Monday (Whit) 30th May. TVMM carried out an engagement to dance twice during the afternoon at an enormous gathering at the Lensbury Social Club, Teddington.

On the same day Tim Cawdron and Cyril Smith went on their annual visit to Bampton and Headington Quarry. Morris was studied closely and many friends met.

Saturday 6th June. TVMM went on an outing in the Farnham area described as Dave's minitour during which they won a tug-of-war match.

Saturday 18th June. Siward arranged a tour in Walton and Byfleet. Jenny gave us a strawberry tea. After a call at Lyme Grove the men went on to Hardwick Barn for the traditional midsummer all-night party.

Monday 27th June. Squire Phil arranged an evening visit to a pub at Teddington Lock where some women also danced.

Tuesday 28th June. A specially successful evening visit to Blob's pub, the Ship at Ripley, where the landlord was celebrating a year's incumbency by selling beer and spirits at half price.

Thursday 30th June -5th July. Krov. This was TVMM's third expedition to Krov/ Mosel. It was very, very satisfactory in all respects. A party of 19 including ladies met at Dover and, after a smooth channel crossing, drove uneventfully across Europe. At Krov Jan from Paris, Angus from Rotterdam and Bill from somewhere in Middle Europe join the party. The young men were quartered in a school, the older men and married couples privately. The weather was beautiful, even rather hot. During the stay we danced from time to time in the town and several times in the great Wine Hall. At the request of our hosts we morrised in a convent and also in a neighbouring village, Mont Royal, situated 1,000 feet above Krov and reached by a road winding through the great vineyards. We took our part in the barge performance and watched the fine water spectacle. In good weather and the splendid setting we were represented in the religious service, conducted from the barge, the congregation being on the bank.

On the Sunday afternoon TVMM was item 32 in the 64 item procession. This procession - though exhausting in the heat - was great fun, unlike some English ones. Our Goat caused great amusement. A small boy led us, regulating our speed and carrying a shield inscribed Tanzgruppe Thames Valley ODT England: it was not realised that ODT was merely part of the Claygate postcode. The men gave the boy a small money gift.

One evening we sang and drank far into the night and on the last evening were the guests of Gerd Klein at his splendid hof and vineyard. We met the Swedish club we had entertained in England some years ago but only Leif and his wife were the friends we knew earlier. As well

as the Swedes and ourselves there were a dozen or more national groups. The only other English speakers were players from North Surrey, British Columbia. The large party from Budapest had extremely expert dancers: as is usual, parties from behind the Iron Curtain perform to high professional standards.

The crowds attending the festival were enormous. It was interesting to note that for the period of the festival all street regulations were suspended: one drove where one liked and parked anywhere. During our stay a young man died in a road accident. This spread grief through the community as many families in Krov are related.

We left for home on the Monday taking, between us, over £200 worth of Krover wine. Malcolm and Caroline stayed on for a week.

John G and Joan returned to Krov the following October at the time of the harvest festival.

Thursday 14th July. Bill Tofts arranged our annual visit to the Middlesex Hospital. The dancing and good company were enjoyed by patients, nurses and TVMM.

Friday 15th July. Morris was an item in one of Digger's cajun dances.

Saturday 16th July. Chris Thomas' tour accompanied by a side from Cup Hill M.M. This successful tour took us to Walton-on-the Hill, Leatherhead, Epsom and Ashted. We had tea with Chris and Cynthia.

Week 23rd – 30th June. Morris Holiday arranged by John G. at Owermoigne, Dorset. The most convenient campsite was alongside a smart commercial one where food, bar and baths were available to us. We toured villages round about, but not in Weymouth. We spent some time with our friend Don Byfleet and family and danced with his club, Wessex M.M. We also danced with Frome Valley M.M. and were joined occasionally by members of other clubs. TVMM and families came and went during the week so that a considerable number of people spent their holiday with us. Jim Beard, of whom we have seen little lately, brought his family. The weather throughout the week was glorious: a successful holiday.

Tuesday 9th August. TVMM and Yateley joined for a very enjoyable evening together at Virginia Water.

Weekend 12th – 14th August. Isle of Wight Ring meeting. For TVMM this was a failure in that, although the meeting itself was enjoyable, we had only five men attend. The Wight Squire is our Squire's father and we were disappointed by being able to put on a dismal performance.

Saturday 20th August. Dick Chaundy's Boat Trip was enjoyed by about 30 men, women and children. Travelling downstream from Cowey Sale, Walton, we visited pubs but arrived too late at the Weir Hotel just too late for drink. A good outing, nevertheless.

Weekend 26th – 29th August. Cotswold weekend. This followed its usual pattern and was its normal great success. A large party of men, women, children and dogs camped at the Kings Head, Withington - now almost our home from home. Our country members Hugh Gibson

and Nick Oliver joined us. We danced at nine pubs and on Sunday in the Roman Villa, Yanworth.

Saturday 10th September. TVMM carried out two engagements during this afternoon - at the Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton and for the Friends of Richmond Park, at the White Lodge in the Park.

Friday 16th September. Squire Phil called an Extraordinary General Meeting to deal with several matters he felt the men might like to discuss.

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting, 16th September, 1983

1. APOLOGIES. Cyril Smith, Stephen Ashcroft. 28 Morris Men present.

2. BAGMAN'S ADDRESS. Bagman not present, but tendered his resignation in letter to Squire. General discussion on C.D.S. future role within Club. Motion "That C.D.S. wish to resign as Bagman be accepted with regret, thanking him for his past services to the club, and in anticipation of his future contribution. Carried unanimously. C.D. S. will continue his duties until new Bagman is elected at A.G.M.

3. ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE. Decline in practice attendance noted and discussed. Squire emphasised practice starts at 8 p.m. and finishes at 10 p.m. Importance of regular practice generally endorsed. Friday nights should continue as main practice, supplementary nights to be arranged as and when required. Siward to arrive earlier.

4. STANDARDS OF DANCING. Varied debate relating to repertoire, number of dances, lines, Cecil Sharp and audiences. "Squires word is law" generally accepted.

5. STANDARDS OF DRESS AND PRESENTATION. Importance of cleanliness, black shoes, shoes, white socks and good repair of kit was stressed. Motion "That badges be worn on back of waistcoats" carried. Future role of Fool/Hobby Horse/Betty to be investigated.

6. NEWSLETTER. Role and content of Newsletter debated. Motion "That Newsletter be kept in its present format" carried unanimously.

7. RECRUITMENT. The need for new recruits generality accepted, proposed means of attracting them include handouts, use of press, libraries, advance publicity, encouraging friends to participate. Squire to draw up cost analysis of various alternatives.

8. A.G.M. Arranged for Friday 21st October, 1983 at 8 p.m.

Saturday 17th September. Plans for a day of dance on this date were cancelled, largely at the urging of the retiring bagman.

Sunday 2nd October. Tim Cawdron arranged another of our very successful Sunday lunch time thrashes. A large party attended and included two apprentices. Alun Jones emerged from “retirement”.

Tuesday 4th October. TVMM carried out an engagement to show the morris to a party of American visitors at a banquet at Goodwood House, Sussex. This entailed a longish drive but the expedition was pleasant and profitable.

14th – 16th October. The annual study weekend at Godshill was poorly attended but valuable.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall , Claygate, on Friday 21st October 1983.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrence, Norman Keam and Gordon Smith.
2. Present: Phil Underwood, Chris Seager-Thomas, Jim Brooks, Francis Smith, John Glaister, Dick Chaundy, Derek Painter, Bill Tofts, Paul Brooks, Robert Peace, Paul Goddard, Mick Jenkins, Tim Cawdron, John Walsh, Digger Glaister, John Hall, Graeme Thompson, Jack Garwood; Mike Vardy and Cyril Smith. Apologies for absence were received from Siward Glaister, Andy Melville, Steve Ashcroft and Allan Goddard.
3. Minutes of the last A.G.M were taken as read.
4. There were no matters arising from them.
5. Correspondence: “The Morris Ring” in place of Ring circular, giving notice and agenda for Ring A.R.M. next February; “Morris Dancer”; Ring Directory; Folk Directory; List of cassettes and photos; List of Instructional Meetings; Ring banquet in May; Munich festival 1985; Bracknell festival in March; Hersham fete in May; Molesey fete in July; Broadwood M.M. invitation for May.
6. Bagman’s Report. The Log was taken as read. Bagman added that new hats had been purchased. He thanked club members who had carried out some bagman duties during the year. The report was accepted.
7. Treasurer’s Report. Chris Thomas’ statement of club finances was an interim one because a number of payments and receipts were outstanding. Cash in hand at this date was £180. Bagman reported on cost of the Carey day last May. It was decided to pay £30 towards that cost, the Ring having paid £66. Authority was given to pay subscriptions to Elmbridge Twinning Guild £5; E.F.D.S.S. £12; the Ring £25; and for the Purchase of two tankards. It was decided to present a bouquet to the squire’s lady at some appropriate time.
8. Squire’s Report. Phil spoke of his gratitude to the men for help and support. He made comments on the events of the past year. He suggested more dancing in our own

neighbourhood. He spoke of style, costume and motivation. The Squire's report was accepted and he was warmly thanked.

9. Membership. Paul Brooks and John Walsh were welcomed to the club. It was decided to arrange for a new series of mid-week practices for all but especially for apprentices.

10. Elections. Phil Underwood was re-elected squire. Chris Seager-Thomas was re-elected treasurer. Tim Cawdron was re-elected recorder. Mick Jenkins was elected bagman. Cyril Smith was elected president - an office created specially for him. He expressed his appreciation.

11. There were no motions.

12. Activities. It was decided to go ahead with the bonfire party as in earlier years. Similarly Boxing Day tour, the order of visiting the public houses being the same. The men were reminded of the Ring A.R.M. which is to be held in February next in North London. It was decided the club would not be represented in the Ring Jubilee celebrations in Birmingham next May. A fixtures meeting was fixed for 11th November next, subject to the availability of the Foley Hall. A Ladies' Pleasure was suggested for a date in the New Year '84.

13. Any Other Business. Arrangements were made to supply Jim with cakes for Boxing Day. Digger suggested the club attend a festival in Chertsey: possibly July, details to follow.

The meeting closed at 10.12pm.

Tuesday 24th October. The first of the re-started practices. During this year four men have joined. One has dropped out, a second attends rarely, Paul Brooks, keen and doing well, snapped his Achilles tendon in the middle of Laudanum Bunches and John Walsh, also very keen, continues well.

Saturday 29th October. Morris at Digger's barn dance at New Haw.

Saturday 5th November. Bonfire party cancelled, another cold water effort of the former bagman.

Monday 21st November. C.D.S. on behalf of TVMM attended a Springgrove M.M. practice in Kingston in order to be able to report on and support that club's application for Ring membership.

Sunday 4th December. A Dearsley walk. A party of 15 traversed Waggoners Wells and Ludshott Common to lunch at the Prince of Wales, Hammer, and then call it a day.

Friday 9th December. TVMM morrised at Pyrford Christmas dance which was called by Denis Salt, formerly TVMM.

Sunday 11th December. Claygate Chamber of Commerce arranged a Santa Klaus procession through the village. TVMM took part after a lengthy session at the Foley. The procession, compared with that of Krov, was pathetic but the men had a bit of fun.

Monday 26th December. Boxing Day Claygate tour. 16 men attended and the weather was good. The crowds were slightly smaller than previously but comprised a big proportion of people who come year after year and often from a distance. John Walsh danced in the set dances but is not yet ready for his jig. Paul hobbled about in plaster. The new president occupied a place in Step Back but no movement was visible.

Gratuitous remarks by the president (Cyril Smith):

1983 can be judged a successful year despite difficulties arising out of very understandable changes of circumstance. John G. plays as well and as usefully as ever but three oldsters have reached the end of their dancing days. A group of middle aged men, though as keen and expert as ever, find increasing business and other responsibilities demand more of their time. One or two have moved some distance from our area. Yet another group work abroad on an arc from Norway to Sumatra via Paraguay. As to newcomers, at the moment we have a nett gain of one!

The major occasions of our year were, however, very major. They were the Carey Day, the visit to Krov, the Dorset and Cotswold holidays and Claygate Boxing Day.

I am claiming that our morris is good. While our presentation is right down bad our technique is excellent, our style relaxed and, as our cheerfulness is always obvious, the resulting performances give us great enjoyment and any witnesses of it considerable pleasure.

I am fortunate in having been a morris man and, especially, in having been a Thames Valley Morris Man.

LOG 1984 of the THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

FRIDAY 20th JANUARY. Ladies Pleasure at the Arbrook Hall, Claygate. About 40 ladies, friends and morris men attended this very enjoyable party. Food, drink and entertainment were excellent.

SATURDAY 28th JANUARY. Upwards of 100 attended this party held during the midday hours at the Foley Arms, Claygate, to celebrate Cyril Smith's 80th birthday. Cyril was showered with gifts and received many greetings from members of other morris clubs including: a painting of the Foley from Ewell St Marys M.M. Hugh Gibson and Chris Ridley came from the distant West Country. Phil took many excellent photographs. Morris men brought their families and the party was warm and uproarious. Cyril and his wife, Babs, were much moved and grateful.

SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY. TVMM were the guests at the Cup Hill M.M. Ale at Farnham. They were very pleased to renew this old friendship.

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY. A day long instruction meeting in the Foley Hall.

Saturday 3rd MARCH. CDS attended the Ring A.R.M, Bushey.

SATURDAY 10th MARCH. Instruction meeting, Claygate.

SATURDAY 8th APRIL. On the Saturday evening of a five-day course on international folk dancing at Surrey University, Stag Hill, Guildford, TVMM showed the morris and, very largely, ran the programme of social dancing.

SATURDAY 15th APRIL. A noonday thrash at the Plough, Byfleet.

SATURDAY 21st APRIL. Following a tradition and despite the existence now of a Kingston club (Springgrove) TVMM carried out their Hocktide programme, during the day, of dancing on the tow path, in the yard of Kingston Parish Church and in the precinct, Eden Walk. They made their usual gift to the church funds.

TUESDAY 24th APRIL. TVMM carried out an engagement to show the morris at an evening party at the Silvermere country club, Byfleet .

TUESDAY 1st MAY. At the landlord's invitation TVMM celebrated May Day during the evening at the Lincoln Arms, Weybridge.

MONDAY 7th MAY. After dancing, in very muddy grass, at the Claygate Garden Centre, TVMM went on to dance several thrashes at the big 'family day' at the Lensbury Social Club, Twickenham. This was a profitable engagement.

SATURDAY 19th MAY. Chris S-T's tour was to pubs fairly nearby, Weston Green, Epsom and Ashted. We enjoyed and are grateful Chris and Cynthia hospitality.

THURSDAY 31st MAY. TVMM enjoyed an evening with Grand Union M.M. of which club Lester Bailey is now a member, having left TVMM for geographical reasons.

SUNDAY 3rd JUNE. Noonday thrash at Dick Chaundy's local, Worcester Park. A good turn-out including Angus Stewart, he being on holiday between moves from Rotterdam to Aberdeen.

WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE. TVMM joined Greensleeves for the Dean's Yard, Westminster, morris demonstration.

SATURDAY 9th JUNE. After a short morning tour, TVMM went on to Bill Ellis' and his Angela's wedding at Lyne. All attended the reception at Chertsey. In the evening many men and families attended the big party at Nonsuch Palace, Ewell, which was in celebration of the wedding, earlier in the day, of the marriage of Malcolm Hendra to his Caroline.

SATURDAY 23rd June. After an evening thrash at the Vine, Chertsey, TVMM went on to the all-night celebration of Midsummer at Hardwick Barn, Lyne. John G. was the caller and the men performed the Abbots Bromley Horn dance (at about 2am) going on for singing round a bonfire on the nearby St. Anne's hill at dawn.

SUNDAY 24th SUNDAY. TVMM were glad to show the morris at a function of a charitable organisation called Mencap at St Lawrence Jewry churchyard in Gresham St., London.

THURSDAY 28th JUNE. TVMM accepted the invitation - and a good deal of beer - from the Landlord of the Ship, Ripley.

SUNDAY 1st JULY. Wild Bill Ellis had arranged for TVMM to contribute morris at the Bracknell Festival. The men thought a quiet passage in an orchestral performance was the end and launched into Shepherds Hey, Bampton. They were hurriedly quietened!

SATURDAY 7th JULY. TVMM attended the church blessing service on Mervyn's marriage to his Carol. Many men and families attended the fine party afterwards at Woodham.

SUNDAY 8th JULY. Yet again TVMM joined the activities of Shere's Fair in the Square. The weather was glorious and the crowds enormous. The morris was appreciated and the men enjoyed the occasion.

THURSDAY 12th JULY. Yet again the men made their always enjoyed, and enjoyable visit to the Middlesex Hospital. The patients, matron and the nurses expressed their gratitude for the fun and dancing and the modest gift of money.

SATURDAY 11th JULY. TVMM took part in the procession, showed. the morris and joined in the fun of Chertsey Cherry Fair.

FRIDAY 20th JULY. Grand Union and TVMM spent the evening in Harmondsworth supporting the parish social party there.

SATURDAY 21st JULY. Dave Dearsley's tour started with morris in Guildford High Street, part of a function arranged by a local organisation. Thereafter the tour went to the Farnham area and included refreshment at the home of Dave and Kathy.

28th July - 4th August. The morris holiday this year was spent at the centre in Godshill, Hants, often used by TVMM for instruction weekends. Numbers attending were low. Some men came for only part of the week. Numbers were short for morris but several times sides were made up with help from members of other clubs who were staying at the camp site.

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST. The boat trip organised by Dick Chaundy took a large party of morris men and families upstream (always in earlier years the voyage was downstream) from Kingston. Landings for beer and morris occurred from time to time.

WEEKEND 24th -27th AUGUST. The Cotswold weekend this year was judged to be the most successful. Numbers were hard to estimate but the camp site held 20 tents. Country members, members seldom now seen, many children and a few dogs attended. There was much morris, often with two sides dancing. A new warden required the dancing to be outside the Roman Villa. On Monday a visit was paid to 'our' village of Oddington and several interesting contacts made.

SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER. TVMM spent, as in earlier years, an afternoon showing the morris at Chertsey Show.

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER. A small party attended the, as always, pleasurable Yateley Day. The feast was very enjoyable.

SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER. TVMM had a very big gathering of morris men and their families for a lunch time thrash at the Jolly Farmer, Staines.

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men Held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 9th November 1 984.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead clubmates George Lawrence, Norman Keam and Gordon Smith.
2. Present: 28 men.
3. Minutes of the Special meeting held on 16th September 1983 and the A.G.M. held on 21st October 1983 were read, agreed and signed.
4. There were no matters arising from them.

5. Correspondence: Mick referred to a letter from Barry Care, the Ring Squire, to circulars from the Ring including a list of Ring meetings for 1985 and to communications from the E.F.D.S.S.

6. Bagman's Report: Mick reported on the club's activities during 1984 and thanked the men for their support. It was reported the Log was written up to date.

7. Treasure's Report: Chris submitted a detailed statement of the club's finances. Turnover £1,000, money in hand £290. The report was accepted and Chris thanked for its preparation. Authority was given for the payment of affiliation fees to E.F.D.S.S. £18, to the Ring £25, and to Elmbridge Twinning Guild £5. It was agreed to pay £9.50 for a hassock to be decorated in the TVMM motif to Holy Trinity church, Claygate, and to the Woodland Trust £5 towards tree planting.

8. Squire's Report: Phil spoke of improved standards of dancing and of smartened morris costume. He urged constant morris practice. He referred to each of the year's outings. He spoke of the companionship among T.V.M.M. and of his enjoyment of his period of office. The report was accepted with warm thanks to Phil for his leadership.

9. Membership: Rob Thurston of Cardiff M.M. was given full membership, under the rule, on his moving into the area, Pyrford. John Walsh and Paul Brooks are ready to dance their jigs at any suitable occasion. Parry Philips and Barry Harness are making good progress during their few months membership. Rob Kenward and Simon ? joined as recently as last week. C.D.S. thanked John G., Paul Goddard, Chris Thomas and Allan Goddard for help in the apprentice training process.

10. Elections: John Glaister was elected Squire. Mick Jenkins was re-elected Bagman. Jack Garwood was elected Treasurer. Tim Cawdron was re-elected Recorder. (It was decided that when the special fund for the Newsletter was exhausted, the cost should be borne by club funds). The office of president is not elective but for life.

11. Motions: Paul Goddard moved that a card giving the club's office-holders' name and addresses be prepared for distribution. It was decided to do this but possibly not exactly in the form suggested.

12. Activities: In advance of the fixtures meeting because early application was necessary, it was decided to apply for an invitation to Krov for next July and for one of three 1985 Ring meetings - Worcester, Thaxted and Yateley. Further, approval was given for the following annual engagements to be included in next year's programme - Claygate instruction meetings, Ring A.R.M., Hocktide, Westminster, Middlesex Hospital, Boat trip, Cotswold weekend and Godshill. Attention was called to Dave's Walk on 18th November '84. It was agreed to support Fran's charity on Monday 10th December 1984.

13. Any Other Business: The Squire asked men to wear Badges on the backs of the waistcoats. Jim, as usual, asked for four cakes for Boxing Day.

The meeting closed, at 10.20pm.

ATTENDANCE AT THE A.G.M. 9th NOVEMBER 1984:

Phil Underwood, Mick Jenkins, Chris Thomas, Jack Garwood, Dave Dearsley, Andy Melville, Jan Lucas, Tim Cawdron, Allan Goddard, Malcolm Hendra, Derek Paynter, Jim Brooks, John Glaister, Robert Peace, Adrian Palmer, Paul Brooks, Paul Goddard, Rob Thurston, Tim Sharp, Bill Tofts, John Walsh, Mike Vardy, Francis Smith, Siward Glaister, Malcolm Snowden, Dick Chaundy, Rick Payne, Cyril Smith.

WEEKEND 13th OCTOBER. A small party camped and studied and danced at Godshill, Hampshire.

Sunday 18th NOVEMBER. Dave took a small party of walkers through the lovely Surrey countryside at Waggoners Wells, Ludshott Common to lunch at Hammer in a pub about which there was confusion as to its name.

Friday 23rd NOVEMBER. Fixtures meeting.

SATURDAY 8th December. TVMM showed morris at a dance in New Haw run by Dlgger.

MONDAY 10th DECEMBER. After dancing at the White Hart, New Haw, TVMM went on to help entertain members of Margaret's club for mentally disabled.

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER. TVMM resumed their series of dances at the Pyrford club nights, this one being their Christmas Party.

BOXING DAY 26th DECEMBER. The Boxing Day tour followed the pattern set in previous years. We danced at the pubs in the usual order, the thrash at the Hare and Hounds being the highlight. The weather was fine but chilly. The crowds were as big as ever and the bag the biggest yet. Phil danced out as squire and John G danced in to that office. Our several apprentices did not feel ready to dance their jigs and Rob Thurston who joins us from Cardiff chose to leave it till another occasion. Thirty men attended, Jim got through four cakes and one or two oldsters refrained from attempting to dance.

1984 was an uneventful year. A good deal of morris was danced, some of it very good. On only one occasion TVMM attended a Ring meeting, at Yateley. TVMM spent evenings with Cup Hill and Grand Union. There was no foreign travel. The morris holiday at Godshill had so few TVMM that help was needed from other sides. Four TVMM were married this year, Bill Ellis, Malcolm Hendra, Mervyn Stanley and Tim Sharp (the latter once in Sumatra and once in Sheen, England).

1985 Log of the Thames Valley Morris Men

January 10th. Demonstration Middlesex Hospital.

January 26th. Instruction meeting Foley Hall, Claygate.

February 16th. Demonstration Byfleet Badminton Club Dance.

March 16th. Instruction meeting Foley Hall Claygate.

April 14th. Lunch time thrash Byfleet Squash Club.

April 20th. Hocktide, Kingston-upon-Thames.

April 21st. Demonstration Grosvenor House Hotel, ParkLane, London.

May 3rd. Demonstration Pyrford Spring Fling.

May 4th. Tour - Thomas & Jenkins.

May 11th. Springgrove M.M. Day of Dance.

June 1st. Tour - Dearsley (?).

June 9th. Demonstration Chertsey Bridge celebrations.

June 19th. Putney Festival.

June 22nd. Hardwick Barn All Night (Abbots Bromley Horn Dance).

June 29th. Tour - Dearsley (?)

July 4/10. Krov/Mosel, West Germany.

July 14th. Lunch time thrash Byfleet.

July 20th. Surrey tour & Putney event.

July 25th. Demonstration Cafe Royal, Regent St, London.

August 4th. Lunch time thrash?

August 9th. Krov reunion party Siward G's house.

August 16/18. Alfriston, Sussex.

August 23/26. Cotswold weekend.

September 7/8. Suffolk tour.

September 14th. Greensleeves M.M. Day of Dance.

September 21st. Boat trip?
October 11/13th. Godshill instruction weekend.
October 23rd. A. G. M.
October 27th. Lunch time thrash at Vine, Chertsey.
? Rueil-Malmaison near Paris.
November 19th. David Dearsley's walk.
November 15th. Fixtures meeting.
November 30th. Ashcroft's Xmas Fair, Wimbledon.
December 6th Pyrford Xmas Party.
December 25th. Bill Tofts died.
December 26th. Claygate Boxing Day tour.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Valley Morris Men held in the Foley Hall, Claygate, on Friday 25th October 1985.

1. The men remembered for a moment their dead- clubmates, George Lawrence, Norman Keam and Gordon Smith. It was decided to send a message of good will to Bill Tofts.
2. Present: 21 men.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 9.11.84 taken as read.
4. Matters arising: none.
5. Correspondence: Bagman referred to letters from the Ring (including notices of Ring meetings and Workshops) from the E.F.D.S.S. and from a new club in Croydon re Border morris.
5. Bagman's Report. Mick reported that the club's programme for the year had been carried out successfully. He thanked members for their support.
7. Treasurer's Report: Jack Garwood presented the financial statement in detail and well set out (attached). Authority was given for the payment of fees to the Ring (£25), EFDSS (£18) and Elmbridge Twinning Guild (£5). It was decided to give £5 to the Woodland Trust (as last year). Jack was thanked for his report.

8. Squire's Report: John G. spoke of dance standards – good but capable of improvement. He called for better attendance at practices. He spoke of the attitude of the men to accepting commercial engagements and invited discussion on the subject.

9. Membership: Last year's five apprentices had not continued membership. One man had started two weeks previously. A discussion ensued on publicity aimed at recruitment.

10. Elections: John G. was re-elected squire. Jack Garwood was re-elected Treasurer. Digger G. was elected Bagman and David Dearsley was elected Recorder.

11. Activities: It was decided to apply for places at Ring meetings in 1986. The meeting at Reigate on 18th July was first choice and the one at Hartfield, Derbys, on 25th September. Eight or nine men indicated their wish to accept the invitation to Rueil-Malmaison on the weekend 22nd, November and it was decided that half the cost of transport should be paid out of club funds.

12. Any other business: Jim Brooks asked for cakes for Boxing Day and for more photographs for 1984 and 1985. Dave's autumn walk is to be on Sunday 10th November, assembling at Devil's Punch Bowl, Hindhead. Fixtures meeting was fixed for Friday, 15th November.

The meeting closed" at 11pm.

Attendance at the A.G.M. Friday 25th October 1985. John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister, Mick Jenkins, Jack Garwood., Robert Peace, Martin Kiff, Paul Brooks, Jim Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Graeme Thompson, Jan Lucas, Malcolm Snowden, Mike Vardy, Phillip Underwood, Paul Goddard., Dick Chaundy, Chris Thomas, John Walsh, Peter Jones, Tim Sharp, Cyril Smith. Apologies were received from Malcolm Hendra and Francis Smith.

The LOG will be brief and badly typed till a new writer takes over from the old. CDS, writer for the first 34 years, has become partially blind.

1986 LOG OF THAMES VALLEY MORIS MEN

[Written by Chris Seager-Thomas]

JANUARY.

3rd. The funeral of Bill Tofts at Woking Crematorium. The weather cold but dry and sunny. Members attended from all over the country and gave Bill a good send off. After the service the men danced a few of Bill's favourite dances within the crematorium grounds and then retired to the Rowbarge P.H. in St. Johns to drink a toast to him.

Extract from the TVMM newsletter:- "As it is, his friends will remember a man who liked his pint, but was never drunk, who could be bawdy, but never unkind and – rarest of all – a man who was sometimes indignant, but never angry. The Thames Valley Morris Men in particular will remember a keen and loyal dancer who always gave of his best. A man for whom the Morris was more than just an amusing hobby. Bearing in mind that he was better at navigating in the air than on the ground, I feel quite confident in saying that if there is a heaven, Bill will get there!" AMEN

18th, Instructional at the Foley Hall.

APRIL.

6th. Mad Bill's walk.

12th. Hocktide and ale. Tour by coach accompanied by visitors from other local sides. The tour, calling at Cobham, Weston Green, Kingston and Chessington, was unfortunately marred by heavy rain throughout the day. This however more than made up by a splendid Ale at St.Mary's Church Hall in Chessington.

23rd. Agency do at Twickenham Rugby ground

MAY.

2nd, Pyrford spring fling

3rd, Mad Jacks day of dance

10th, Mark Jones wedding

11th, A dance at Gomshall followed by a crawl up Leith Hill hosted by Robert Peace.

17th, Ewell St. Mary's day of dance and ale. A tour by coach in splendid countryside and glorious weather. A grand day out was followed by an excellent feast.

26th, Winchester day of dance.

JUNE

6th, Hardwick Barn barn dance hosted by Mad Bill Ellis.

7th, Andy Melville's tour

21st, A mini tour in good weather hosted by Siward followed by our annual visit to the Hardwick Barn all night dance.

JULY.

5th, Jack Garwood's tour

12th, Tour by Digger based around the Chertsey Black Cherry Fair.

13th, Shere village fair. As usual brilliant sunshine throughout the day resulting in morris men dropping like flies after the bash in the square. One day if our luck's in, the local pubs might stay open a little longer.

18th to 20th, Reigate Ring Meeting. Blessed by superb weather and company. Some of our members camped on the Friday night and others joined the throng on Saturday. The participating sides were split into four groups and set off on their separate coach tours. We then all joined together for the main display in Reigate Park. The highlight there was when our goat "commandeered" a bicycle, sports model of course, and rode through the surprised ranks of morris men! The day ended with a magnificent feast. On Sunday church was attended in the Village of Walton on the Hill followed by dancing at all four inns in the village. Many old acquaintances were renewed, and many new ones made. A splendid time was had by all, pity about work on Monday!

NOTE: This month, after a period of nearly 28 years, we lost the Friday night practice session at the Foley Hall. The landlord seemed to think a Friday night folk club would be more profitable.

AUGUST.

4TH, A large number of the members attended a surprise party at Siward's house in order to celebrate John Glaister's 70th birthday.

15th to 17th. Jan's now annual Alfriston weekend. Rumour has it that Jan did not attend!

22nd to 25th. Cotswolds weekend. About this time of year Dave Dearsley gets this overwhelming urge to go "walkabout" in the Cotswolds. Also each year he says he won't organise another, but he does. Once again we all enjoyed a glorious weekend of dance, drink, company and general camaraderie. Unfortunately the weather broke on bank holiday Monday but we still managed to dance in Oddington which now seems to be our regular bank holiday stop. Pity about the soggy tents!

SEPTEMBER.

13TH, John Glaister's tour which included a visit to Chertsey agricultural show.

20th, Dick Chaundy's annual boat trip

28th, An evening engagement at the Dickens Inn at St. Catherines Dock.

OCTOBER.

10th. to 12th. Our annual pilgrimage to Godshill.

19th, Spelthorne fun run.

NOVEMBER

9th, The TVMM autumn walk.

12th, AGM.

16th, Agency booking at the Intercontinental Hotel in Park Lane. Memorable mostly due to the horrendous traffic jams and a group of army pipers and sword dancers purloining our beer and sandwiches. Luckily this was resolved peacefully.

22nd, Steve Ashcroft's Church fair.

DECEMBER

5th, Pyrford Christmas dance.

26th, Annual Boxing Day tour of Claygate. Cold but sunny. As usual the event was well attended both by members and spectators. The order of stops was as in past years. John Glaister played himself out as squire and then Fran danced himself into the vacated office. The general dancing was pretty good possibly spurred on by the cold and the crowds making it virtually impossible to get a beer!

Writer's comment for the year: Dancing still pretty good. However older members continue to slowly move away and are no longer being replaced at the same rate as in previous years.

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THAMES VALLEY
MORRIS MEN HELD AT THE FOLEY HALL ON 12th NOVEMBER 1986**

The meeting opened at 8.25 p.m. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Ashcroft, Phil Underwood, and Andy Melville.

The men then observed a short period of remembrance for those members of the side who have passed on.

Having been previously published in the News Letter, the minutes of the previous A.G.M. were agreed, and signed as correct. There was only one matter arising from these minutes, and that was one with reference to recruitment.

John Glaister, our Squire, then gave his report for the past year. He mentioned that the standard of dancing was similar to the previous year, although practice attendances had been poor, in fact during the year he had stopped the Friday practice through lack of support. He suggested that we might cut down on the number of practice sessions! John then mentioned how pleased he had been with our performances in public, especially at the Reigate Ring Meeting. He closed his report by apologising for not organising a trip to Rueil Malmaison, and warning of a hard job for his successor, finally thanking the officers of the club for their efforts throughout the year.

Digger Glaister, Bagman, then rose to give his report (actually he remained seated, but it sounds more formal this way!!) He reported that the side had enjoyed a busy dancing year, with, in most cases the fielding of strong dancing teams, despite on many occasions being robbed of the "Luck of the Morris" as regards the weather! Next, he reported on some of the more memorable fixtures at which we danced. His report finished with a request for men to respond to instructions in the newsletter, and then he thanked all those men who had given help and support throughout the year.

The next to report was Jack Garwood our Treasurer, who referred to a previously circulated balance sheet. Income for the year had been very good but mainly from Hotel engagements, the bags from Tours being somewhat low. Tim Cawdron proposed a vote of thanks to Jack, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:-

Squire: - there was only one nomination for Squire, that of Frances Smith who was voted in unanimously.

Bagman:- Digger Glaister agreed to carry on this task, with Tim Cawdron as understudy for such time as when Digger moved to Somerset.

Jack Garwood agreed to carry on the excellent job he is doing as Treasurer.

After these elections various motions were proposed from the floor, these were as follows:-

1. That in the light of the present unstable situation within the E.F.D.S.S, we should discontinue our membership. This was decided against and continuation of membership agreed.
2. Our continued membership of the Morris Ring was agreed.
3. Our continued membership of Elmbridge winning Guild was agreed.
4. A proposal by Cyril Smith to donate towards the planting of a tree or trees on the green by the "Hare and Hounds" public house was agreed. The sum of £10 was therefore agreed to be donated to the Woodland Trust for that purpose.
5. Ladies Pleasure was to be arranged in February.

6. An invitation by the Forest of Dean Morris Men to attend their weekend of dance was accepted.
7. It was also agreed that our Bagman set the wheels in motion to enable us to go to Krov in 1987, by contacting Patricia Matten.

Under the heading any other business even more motions were discussed namely: Dave Dearsley was thanked for writing and distributing the Newsletter, and it was hoped he would continue to do so. Oliver Matten, recently born to our friends Ulrich and Patricia, in Krov, was toasted, and it was agreed that the bagman send a letter of congratulation. Chris Seager-Thomas, Bill Ellis, Mark Jones and Digger agreed to bake cakes for Boxing Day. Jim Brooks called for more photos of the 1986 season for the Scrap Book. Chris Seager-Thomas took over the Team Log: a vote of thanks was given to Cyril for his work in starting up and maintaining it in the past. Various fixtures were discussed in order to eliminate or take them on with their organisers. Items such as the Boat Trip and Morris Holiday were to be referred to the fixtures Meeting which was set for the 9th December.

Various suggestions were made as to the feasibility of continuing with the Friday practice night. Eventually a proposal from the Chair, that we experiment with only practising on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in each month, but keep regular weekly Tuesday practices, was carried. Francis Smith, in his post of Squire-Elect urged everyone to attend these practices regularly.

The meeting closed at 10.45 approx.

1987 LOG OF THAMES VALLEY MORIS MEN

[Written by Chris Seager-Thomas]

MARCH.

14th, Ladies Pleasure.

APRIL.

28th, Hocktide. An evening affair this year and actually on the correct date for the first time in living memory!

MAY.

1st, Pyrford Spring Fling.

8th, Runnymede Hotel. A paying job for the British Dental Association.

9th, Spring Grove's day of dance.

17th, Dick Chaundy's lunchtime thrash.

27th, Agency booking at the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

JUNE.

2nd, Agency booking at the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

12th to 14th. A weekend of dancing in the Forest of Dean.

20th, Annual Hardwick Barn all night dance.

27th, Siward's tour

JULY.

4th and 5th, Tour in Hereford.

11th, St. Mary's flower show, Harmondsworth.

12th, Shere fair in the square. Brilliant sunshine again this year. Th dancing was good as was the company. Several men ended up drinking coke and dangling tired, swollen feet in the

cold stream runninh through the village. It gets harder to stay on ones feet at this event each year. Is it age or is Youngs' bitter getting stronger, or is it both?

18th, Robert Peace's tour. This tour was based around the Dorking and Horsham area, ground we have not covered for a considerable number of years. Unfortunately the weather was not too kind so rather more drinking than dancing was done.

25th, Peter Jones' tour. Good beer, good dancing, fine weather on this tour of inns in the Woking area. After the dancing finished we joined Peter for a bar-be-que on his estate. A marvellous time was had by all.

AUGUST.

16th, Lunchtime thrash at the Jolly Farmers in Staines. Tim Cawdron's regular fixture. After dancing a large number of the men retired to Tim's house to partake of tea and sandwiches by the river.

21st to 23rd, Alfriston weekend.

28th to 31st, Annual Cotswolds weekend. The popularity of this weekend is unparalleled within the TV> calendar. Morris men previously thought to have disappeared reappear in droves from all directions, often with new families. Perhaps the event should be renamed "The Annual Thames Valley Morris Men's New Baby/Girlfriend Parade". Frivolities apart, nice to see Hugh and Nick again. The weekend was as good as ever and may there be many more.

SEPTEMBER.

12TH, Greensleeves day of dance.

16TH, Ashtead Village Club. A good number of men took part in this event, being part of the 100th anniversary of AVC. The dancing was somewhat wild and during the latter part of the evening an AVC committee member was persuaded to take part in Beaux Badby. AVC said we could return next year.

19TH, Dick Chaundy's boat trip.

OCTOBER.

3rd Tour by Jim Barclay. A splendid day out on territory rarely ventured in by TV. The tour was based around Banstead, where Jim lives and several stops were "first timers".

9th to 11th, Godshill instructional.

14th, **Ale.** Held at Claygate Youth Club. There was no day tour, but at the hall we were joined by Yateley, Ewell and Grand Union morris sides. A good time was enjoyed by all participants.

NOVEMBER

17, AGM.

DECEMBER

13th, Christmas walk in Hindhead, Tilford area.

26th, Boxing Day tour of Claygate. Usual format in crisp weather.

NOTE. During this month, Chris Penton, a founder member of the Thames Valley Morris Men and our first squire died in hospital. He had been ill for a considerable length of time.

Writer's comments for the year: Dancing slightly improving since last year, a certain get-up-and-go has appeared. It now has a certain rawness about it combined with precision, which I feel makes the dance very exciting to watch, and indeed to be a part of. Unfortunately the drain continues with little sign of new blood entering the side. It has been nice to see a few more full Saturday tours this year.

At this time Cyril has decided he has sufficiently regained his sight to continue writing the TVMM log. The present writer will be more than pleased to resume the task at any time in the future.

Christopher Seager-Thomas' account of the activities is, I think excellent: the coverage is entirely adequate and the style admirable. C.D.S.

LOG 1988 of the Thames Valley Morris Men.

WEDNESDAY 20th January. Morris committee meeting 9 Telegraph Lane, Claygate.

SATURDAY 13th February. TVMM instructing Oddington at YATELEY.

SATURDAY 20th February. Grosvenor House Hotel engagement.

SATURDAY 27th February. Ladies Pleasure at Pyrford.

FRIDAY 11th March. Dave Dearsley's children's party Farnham.

Weekend 18th March Ring ARM; Phil Underwood attended.

Weekend 8 - 10 April, Attended Faithful city (Worc) meeting.

Saturday 23rd April. Hocktide in Kingston during midday hours.

Thursday 28th April. Intercontinental Hotel engagement.

Saturday 7th May. Peter Jones' tour round Horsell including Fullbrook school.

Wednesday 18th May. First of three instructions by CDS of Horsley school children.

Saturday 21st May Dick Chaundy's tour round Cranleigh.

Monday 30th May. Mervyn Stanley and CDS attended Bampton and Headington.

Tuesday 7th June. With Yateley evening meeting at Thorpe.

Saturday 18th June. All night dancing Hardwick Barn.

Sunday 19th June. TVMM and Ewell MM Claygate Garden Centre engagement.

Weekend 30th June – 5th July. Party of 22 attended Krov/Mosel festival.

Saturday 9th July. John Walsh tour in Twickenham.

Saturday 16th July. Four TVMM acted as wine waiters at dinner for French visitors.

Weekend 29 - 31 July. Dorset weekend.

Week 6 - 13 August. Morris holiday in France with Cloggies.

Weekend, 26 - 30 August. Cotswold weekend.

Saturday 10th September. John Elkins' tour Hampton Court Green and pubs.

Saturday 24th September at Swan centre, Leatherhead with Cloggies.

Weekend 7 - 9 October. Godsell weekend.

Saturday 15th October at Beare Green with Cloggies.

Saturday 22nd October at Ashted (no Cloggies).

Tuesday 1st November AGM, Claygate.

Friday 24th June Siward's Garden Party.

TVMM MORRIS PROPERTIES. (at November 1988)

Owned by Club & in care of

CDS - Silver cup and plaque from Rueil-Malmaison, goblet, wine glasses, wine jar, ornamental plate from Krov/Mosel; costume material including roll of blue cloth, two baldricks, two partly made hats and two partly made bell-pads.

John Glaister - set of antlers for the Abbots Bromley.

Chris S-Thomas – Jester's costume.

Phil Underwood - Hobby horse and Goat.

? Bag of morrls sticks.

Jim Brooks - Scrapbook.

Privately owned:

Phil Underwood - Large collection of fine photographs.

Chris S-Thomas - Albums of photos of TVMM showing waistcoats.

Jim Brooks - Black smock (temporarily in care of Robert Peace), a tape of his recollections, also a great collection of archival material.

CDS - Porcelain figure of TV morris man, two framed pictures by Phil, print of Stockholm, the gift of Swedish folk dancers, tapes of most of the morris music in TVMM repertory and tapes of CDS' recollections.