

THAMES VALLEY LOGBOOK

1987 to 1999

This is the first volume of TVMM Logbooks not to be based on Cyril's Smith's typed records, which he stopped producing in the late 1980s.

Instead they were prepared retrospectively by John Elkins in the 2010s relying mainly on his computer records as Bagman, including newsletters and correspondence, as well as several lever arch folders thick with paper.

Jim Brooks continued to produce hand-written notebooks which contributed first hand recollections until 1993, but he gradually attended fewer club events as his health worsened.

Another major source of detail came from conversations with various club members.

This volume of logbooks includes a number of photographs selected by John Walsh from the huge collection of Thames Valley photographs which he hold and maintains.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ACCURACY AND MEMORY

All the logbooks ultimately depend on people's memories and their preferences about what is worth recording. As noted above, the preparation of these log books did not start until ten to thirty years after the events described and memories both fade and vary from member to member. 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

1987 LOG

Friday, January 9 or 16. Harmondsworth Church Hall.

Sunday, Jan 11. Dave Dearsley's 40th birthday. A stroll from Aveley Lane to The Bat and Ball and back. No mention of dancing.

Monday, Feb 9. Squire Fran circulated a plea for better attendance at practices (2nd and 4th Fridays and every Tuesday). He offered to arrange lifts for Jim Brooks.

Saturday, March 14. Ladies Pleasure at Starr's Bistro, East Molesey.

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

Friday, May 1. Pyrford Spring Fling.

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

Saturday, May 9. Spring Grove's day of dance.

Sunday, May 17. Dick Chaundy's lunchtime thrash.

Wednesday, May 20. Foley Arms. Jim Brooks wrote: *I attend a practice evening of Fieldtown and Headington by Squire Francis, 9 fellows.*

Wednesday, May 27. Royal Lancaster Hotel.

June 12/14. Forest of Dean.

Saturday, June 20. Hardwick Barn. All night dance.

Saturday, June 27. Siward's Tour.

July 4/5. Hereford Tour, based on Siward's cottage in Fownhope.

Saturday, July 11. Harmondsworth. St. Mary's flower show, plus two pub stops.

Sunday, July 12. Shere fair in the square. Brilliant sunshine again this year. The dancing was good as was the company. Several men ended up drinking coke and dangling tired, swollen feet in the cold stream running through the village.

Saturday, July 18. Robert Peace's tour. 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. Royal Oak Brockham; Punch Bowl Inn, Oakwood Hill; Oakhill House, Horsham; Walk up Leith Hill (??); Seven Stars, Dawesgreen; William IV, Mickleham.

Saturday, July 25. 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 barbeque on his Horsell estate.

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

August 21/23. Alfriston weekend.

August 28/32. Cotswolds. Saturday: The Plough, Aston Blank; The Black Horse, Naunton; The Farmers Arms, Guiting Power; The Green Dragon, Cowley; The Kings Head. Sunday: The Mill and The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth. Monday: The Horse and Groom, Oddington. From the Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *"As usual we are expected to produce a team for "Dambusting" at about 10.30 pm on Saturday night. Last year TV suffered the indignity not only of losing (Mark had over-trained to the extent that he was dancing with his legs crossed all day) but we were caught cheating - a renegade lady morris dancer carried the coins between her knees instead of you know where. This year I have told The Kings Head team that we are fielding a scratch team (if that's the right description) of young stars, so I hope you will not let us down".*

More from the Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *"I should say something about the Cotswolds. I recall an ancient Afgan love song which begins "There's a boy across the river with a bottom like a peach . . ." I've often pondered the significance of those words but on Saturday night at the Kings Head in Withington as I saw Jim Beard deposit eight coins into the glass and win the trophy for TVMM I realised what it was all about - the Afgans played Dambusting! Jim beat the local team comprehensively. He beat them once, was challenged on a technicality (you recall the controversy over the 1953 Munich Convention covering the "In - Out" Rule), let them in again and then won again effortlessly. At the other end of the scale Mark had again over-trained and was later seen trying to cut his throat, helped by Penny and a queue of others. The rest of the weekend was par for the course."*



Those figuring in these photos of the weekend were: Jim Barclay, Dave Dearsley, Siward Glaister, Digger Glaister, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Jim Beard, Mick Jenkins, Andy Melville, Jack Garwood, Dick Chaundy, Hugh Gibson, Robert Peace, Jan Lucas, John Glaister and, possibly, John Elkins.

Saturday, Sept 12. Greensleeves Day of Dance

Wednesday, Sept 16. Ashted 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.

Saturday, Sept 19. Dick Chaundy's boat trip starting and finishing at Walton Bridge with dancing stops at Sunbury, Thames Ditton and Kingston.

Wednesday, Sept 23. Letter from Squire Fran Smith – Cancellation of Friday Night Practices – Revised dates for Fixtures Meeting & AGM

After 32 years of practice on Friday nights at the Foley Hall (apart from a short break in the early 1960s when we practised at the now demolished Newlands College) we have been ousted by a Folk Group from Weybridge (the sneaky leader briefly attended our Tuesday practices doubtless to view the lay of the ground) who now have confirmed bookings for the hall on Friday nights commencing from the first Friday in October. Friday night practices are therefore cancelled forthwith and revised dates for the Fixtures Meeting and the AGM are Tuesday 20 October and 17 November respectively.

I am not happy that we appear to have been, on the face of it, so poorly treated and my views were so expressed to the new landlord. In fairness however, during July/August Friday practices were virtually non-existent (attendances at practice nights during these months are traditionally poor due to our summer commitments) and I had virtually conceded in my mind that I would recommend at the AGM that we should call it a day and cancel Friday practices. Now we have no choice. The new landlord is amicable and I can fully see his point of view (I am told that the Folk Club's average attendance is forty!). Weekly practices on Tuesdays continue to be fairly well supported and we are assured that our tenancy is safe. The landlord has also offered Saturdays and Sundays to us either during the day or the evening and probably without charge, as a gesture, and this could help possibly with, say, quarterly workshops held during the day on either a Saturday or Sunday. This idea has been mentioned to me again by John Glaister and we can discuss such bookings at our AGM.

Tim as you know is our stop-gap bagman, Digger has now stepped down as indicated at the last AGM and wishes to relinquish as soon as possible due to other commitments. Can I please have any nominees or volunteers for the enviable task of bagman, please contact Tim with such nominations, and indeed with regard to the AGM for any other nominations for Officers. If necessary dear Cyril has gallantly offered to take up the reins of bagman again however as you know his sight now is extremely poor but Babs could read correspondence for him and he can still touch type.

With best regards to you all, Fran.

From The Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *"The grasping Landlord of the Foley has decided he prefers a room full of folk dancing poofers to an empty room full of the memories of bygone lusty, beer swilling Morris Men, so Friday practises are cancelled. The Squire refused demands for a nation-wide boycott of Youngs beer muttering something about "Cutting off your nose. . . ."*

[Editor's note 2015. The Ram Folk Club was very successful and continued to fill the Foley Hall until The Foley Arms became "The Foley Hotel" in 2012]

Saturday, Oct 3. Jim Barclay's Tour. 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".

Oct 9 to 11. Godshill instructional weekend.

Saturday, Oct 17. Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel. A Hotel do for the International Chinese Snuff Box Society.

Wednesday, Oct 14. TVMM Ale. [Ed. Did it really happen on a Wednesday? Maybe it was Saturday the 17th? Jim Brooks wrote: *“The annual Ale was in Claygate Youth Club Hall and a pleasant evening was spent by all. The Yateley m/m Ewell St.Mary m/m and Lester Bailey Grand Union Canal m/m. All our guests danced well and showed off some revived dances I had not seen before, about 60 men in all scoffed Bill Wakefield’s meat my pickles and Jenny Glaisters salads, 3 barrels of beer were finished off.”* From the Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *“Most enjoyable and well attended, even in the end by TVMM. At one stage we produced a team of Fran, Jim Barclay, Siward, Peter Jones, Cyril, Jim Brooks and John Glaister with a staggering combined age of 4,030 years and an average age of 242 years, unless I’ve got my sums wrong. Those of us watching closely were convinced that every now and again members of the team moved.”*

There is a video on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3K7XfnJg4s>

Tuesday, Nov 10. Royal Garden Hotel, Knightsbridge

Tuesday, November 17. AGM. [Ed. No minutes extant.] Jim Brooks wrote: *“We remembered our “Lords of the Dance”, George Lawrence, Gordon Smith, Norman Keam, Bill Tofts. Tim Cawdron resigned being Bagman, Jim Barclay will do the job. Jack Garwood still treasurer and Francis Smith Squire. We agreed to give £100.00 to the Elmbridge Mayor’s fund and provide a tree for Claygate conservations effort at the Green, known if possible, the tree of life, represented on our jackets. Promise of cakes for Boxing Day, Chris Thomas, Jim Barclay, Phil Underwood, Paul Brooks, Siward Glaister.”*

From the Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *“Our tree fetish continued and we scattered donations of trees with gay abandon. Our Squire was re-appointed. His keynote speech concentrated on how we should learn to dance, dress properly and, as I recall, smell nicely. This was well received. Digger’s replacement as Bagman created more difficulty. In the end we decided to adopt a sort of “Legs” system. Cyril, who can hear but not see, would be linked to Babs, who can see but according to Cyril never listens, who would be linked to Jim Barclay who ---?”*

Wednesday, November 18. Death of Christopher Penton. He was a founder member and the first Squire of Thames Valley, and had moved to Bodmin in Cornwall, where he danced with Trigg MM. Jim Brooks: *“While we were having our A.G.M. our first squire Christopher Penton, died in Bodmin Hospital Cornwall. We don’t know any of his relations, so a letter of sympathy will be sent to the Trigg m/m who having been looking after Christopher during his illness. I have been custodian of his Baldrick and Jacket, it will now be time for someone to wear it to keep alive the memory of Christopher.”*

Friday, December 11. Richmond Hill Hotel.

Sunday December 13. Dave Dearsley’s Christmas Walk. Circular walk starting and finishing at the Duke of Cambridge near Tilford.

Saturday, December 26, Boxing Day tour of Claygate. Usual format (Swan, Foley, Hare and Hounds, Winning Horse, Griffin) in crisp weather. About 20 men turned out. Jim Brooks: *“Boxing Day with fine weather all day, crowds of spectators were only moderate. I use up five cakes. Paul Brooks and Phil Underwood fail to keep their promise to provide one, but Mervyn Stanley just returned from abroad provided one. The posy I gave to 3 Finnish girls to take home and press to keep for good luck.”*

1988 LOG

Saturday, January 16. Evening thrash at Harmondsworth Church.

Saturday, Feb 13. TVMM instructed Yateley MM in Oddington. Jim Brooks wrote:

“January 6th. Phil Underwood arrives for a revision of the Oddington tradition. He has been asked by the Yateley m/m to take a day of instruction for their team, and Phil wishes to have it as the T.V. revived it in 1963 and we all wish it to be taught and kept the same.”

Saturday, Feb 20. Whitbread City Brewery.

Saturday, Feb 27. Ladies Pleasure at West Byfleet Squash Club, Pyrford. 45 attended.

Friday March 11. Dave Dearsley’s children’s party, Farnham Maltings.

Weekend March 18. Ring ARM. Phil Underwood attended.

Saturday, April 23. Hocktide, Kingston. Jim Brooks wrote: *“Hock-Tide was celebrated at “The Bishop Out Of Residence” pub down by the river, and St. George’s day also. Midday at the parish church was better this year for collection. I carried the Cake and Sword. I was approached by a young lady to show she was expecting a baby after having some of the Boxing Day cake, I gave her more good wishes for the happy event. A team of Spring Grove m/m turned out with us, we had a good show of chaps. The posy from the sword I gave to a young girl of the Spring Grove men. Phil Underwood and Jan Lucas came home to have tea and biscuits. Phil was pleased to have my old Hobby Horse with stick and wheels at back. He is teaching some school children over at Harlington near Heathrow aerodrome, also a coat and tails suit to wear as King when dancing the Rapper Sword.”*

Thursday 28th April. Intercontinental Hotel engagement.

April 30 Weekend. Mad Jacks weekend, Hastings. It rained a lot during the procession. John Elkins and Jim Beard and families camped on the downs above Hastings. Roy Dommett ran an instruction in ??? tradition including an amazingly nimble demonstration of galley overs.

Friday, May 6. Spring Fling, Pyrford.

Saturday May 7. Peter Jones' tour. Oakley Court Hotel (paid appearance): The Barley Mow, Englefield Green; Fulbrook School Fete, New Haw; Tea chez Jones; The Plough, Horsell; The Row Barge, St. John’s; The Castle Grove, Chobham. A motor cyclist crashed during a demonstration at the Fete and had to be whisked off to hospital (or was it someone from the crowd?). Thames Valley danced immediately afterwards to a, not surprisingly, distracted audience.

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

Saturday, May 21. Dick Chaundy’s tour round Cranleigh. The four Elms, Smithwood Common; The Little Park Hatch, Cranleigh; A walk over Pitch Hill to the Duke of Kent School to dance in the tea interval of a cricket match, followed by tea; The Bull’s Head, Ewhurst; Refreshments at Dick’s home.

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

Tuesday, June 7. Thorpe. Evening with Yateley and Home Made Pickle.

Saturday, June 18. Hardwick Barn.

Sunday, June 19. Claygate Garden Centre. TVMM asked for some help from Ewell MM and were surprised to receive a full side.

Friday, June 24. Siward's garden party. Jim Brooks wrote: *"A folk party in Siwards garden with about 50 guests. A morris team of girls from Egham in Surrey [Ed: Countryside] showed off their paces, all looked very pretty, glad to say their dress was girls' and not trying to imitate men. The T/V showed off their ritual Horn Dance at dusk, the triangle player was missing so I stepped into the breach, was scared of falling over, but managed not to. Jenny and her friends provided a good spread of food, plenty of liquid refreshment including a very good Dry Cider. I met Norman Keam's daughter Jenny and talked about getting hold of Norman's jacket to photograph for the jacket scrap book."*

Saturday, June 25. John Hall tour

Weekend June 30 – July 5. TVMM received two invitations to dance in Germany in 1988, one from Weyerbusch, near Altenkirchen, in the Rhineland, which was declined, another from Krov/Mosel, which was accepted. The letter to Cyril, translated by Patricia Matten, an English friend of TVMM living in Krov said: *"As we discussed with Frau Matten, Krov some time ago, we herewith confirm that the TVMM will be welcome participants at the 35th International Costume Festival to be held this year. As in previous years, the community of Krov will provide free meals in the dining hall and free accommodation. . . . We would like to thank you in particular for participating in our festival, without taking any advantage of an allowance towards your travel expenses. The community will therefore present each member of the group with a gift of wine as a souvenir of your visit. We wish all members of the group a healthy and prosperous 1988 and remain, until we meet again in Krov yours sincerely, Tourist Information Office Krov/Moselle."* A party of 22 travelled in two minibuses by way of Dover and Zeebrugge.



From the Newsletter (Dave Dearsley): *"Many of you who went will be relieved to know that I've forgotten many of the events I swore to include in the Newsletter. Of those I can remember through the wine haze the following are worth recording.*

-TVMM's superb organisation – we took with us only one map, a sort of Readers Digest Map of the World (cutting out the complicated bits) with which we attempted to find Krov – and this was kept in the second, rather than the leading mini-bus.

-Peter Jones heroic attempts to convince the foreigners to drive on the left.

-Paul saying “Good-night” at 2 a.m., staggering down a path and happily trying to reach the Olympic fencing standard with his key versus the door, until Tim dragged him away from a pack of howling dogs – and the wrong house!

-Our Squire waking up occasionally and muttering “I’m going for a curry-wurst”.

-Secret bread-pudding parties with Tim at 2 a.m., after which he went for a swim and woke up all the other guests in the house.

-Mike Vardy trying to get out of a telephone kiosk at 2.30 a.m. using his well-known anti-clockwise technique; and finally

-The sure sign that TVMM had become international celebrities, when our own bunch of hooligans arrived wearing Union Jack shorts, chanting “England, England” as we did our thing.”



Saturday, July 9. Teddington, John Walsh tour. The Prince Albert, Twickenham; The Abercorn, Collis School Fair, and The Queen Dowager, Teddington; The Lion, Hampton Wick.

Thursday, July 14. With Grand Union Morris at the Six Bells, Harmondsworth.

Saturday, July 16. Four TVMM acted as wine waiters at civic dinner for French visitors from the twinning organisation at Rueil-Malmaison.

Weekend 30 - 31 July. Mark 'N' Bill's Dorset Tour. Camping at Winyard's Gap Inn, Cheddington. Dancing at The Admiral Hood, Mosterton; The Coach and Horses, South Perrott; Winyards Gap Inn; Cheddington Street fair; Broadwindsor Craft Shop and Tea Rooms; The Talbot Arms, Evershott. John Elkins danced in to TVMM in West Coker, his birthplace, with John



Glaister playing Highland Mary, Oddington.

Week, 6 - 13 August. Dick Chaundy arranged a Morris holiday in France centred on Coulon, west of Niort, on the banks of the Sèvre and “capital of La Venise Verte”, in the Marais-Poitevin region of the Deux-Sevres department. Having made the arrangements Dick then didn't come on the holiday, but a party from Thames Valley and Claygate Cloggies drove down and camped on the municipal site at Magne near Coulon, beside a swimming pool. TVMM and Claygate Cloggies danced in Coulon on Sunday evening and were spotted by a local journalist. This led to an invitation for our musicians to appear on the local radio station which they (Jan Lucas, Jim Barclay, John Glaister) did. This, and the enthusiastic write-up in La Nouvelle Republique du Center-Ouest later in the week, led to a number of invitations for us to dance in local villages, several of which we were able to accept.

We danced around La Rochelle, where we encountered a squad of British bikers in full leathers – apprehensively – but they turned out to be as nice as pie although, possibly because they came from Birmingham, they declined to join in the dance.

We all went on a punting excursion from Magne on the canals of La Venise Verte. One of the punting chauffeurs had learned his trade at the same Oxford College as John Elkins.

John Elkins writes: *“Perhaps the highlight of the week was an evening at a campsite on a farm in the grounds of a converted Abbey some kilometres away, where TVMM ate and danced and drank a lot. John Walsh performed Nelson’s Praise, which was well received by the locals, who said they hated Napoleon. We then discovered that the farm owner brewed his own wine, cider, brandy etc in the old chapel, and several of us accepted his invitation to an extensive tasting. Jim Barclay danced Bacca Pipes in the Chapel. On the way home I became detached from the main party in my Fiat 500E – and passed them going through a village in the opposite direction. After driving from memory through the dark French countryside I actually reached Magne, but took a wrong turning just before reaching the campsite and ended up beside a canal. Attempting a three point turn in a narrow gravelled lane, I was eventually persuaded by my three teenage daughters (one with a broken leg in plaster), and by Jim Barclay and Jan Lucas, (who were more concerned about damage to their instruments), to stop. On stepping out of the driver’s door my foot went into the water beside the front wheel, at which point I realised that the game was up – reversing up a gravel bank was not going to work. All clambered out and sat around wondering what to do next. Call the police/French version of the RAC? Probably not a good idea given the evidence of our alcohol consumption. Amazingly a car load of young Frenchmen turned up and stopped – it was well past midnight - and offered to help. Even more amazingly they drove home to Niort, returned with rope and hauled us onto firm ground. Vive Les Francais. I also recall camping on the cliffs above Le Havre on the way home and tying a guy rope around me to stop the tent blowing away in strong winds.”*

The party included John Elkins and family, John Walsh and family, Mick Jenkins and family, Jan Lucas, John and Jenny Glaister, Siward and Jenny Glaister, Jim Barclay, Jill Marsden and family, Peter Jones(?).



The Nouvelle Republique du Center-Ouest article follows: ***Des campeurs anglais ne se contentent pas de decouvrir le marais ; ils se proposent de faire connaitre leur folklore.***

“Ce mardi matin le ciel a decide de ne pas se departir tot de sa petite laine grise. La jovialite des campeurs tranche avec une meteo visiblement en quete de soleil. Ici, l'odeur du cafe fait des volutes. La, on s'apprete a vivre une journee farniente dans le marais.

Une petite musique presque egrillarde d'un bandoneon s'echappe d'une tent. La ballade irlandaise est happee par une envolée d'eclats de rire entrecoupees de commentaires sans nul doute apparentes a la langue de Shakespeare.

Il s'agit de deux groupes folkloriques britanniques. Celui des hommes, “les Thames Valley Morris Men”, rend hommage a la vallee de la Tamise et a la danse “Morris”, specifiquement interpretee par les hommes. Le groupe de femmes, les “Claygate Cloggies” évoque les sabots que chacun d'elles porte comme cela etait le cas au siecle dernier dans la region industrielle du nord de l'Angleterre. Ni les uns ni les autres ne sont sur le chemin du retour de Confolens.

Il a suffi qu'un ami leur vante les qualites du Marais Poitevin pour que tous decident de venir planter la tente, en famille, au camping de Magne pour une semaine. Un voyage qui a laisse une place pour les instruments et les costumes dans le coffre des voitures. On ne se debarrasse pas de ses racines. Meme pas le temps d'une traversee du Chanel!

Entre deux brassées dans la piscine, une balade au fil de la Sevre Niortaise dans une “plate”, les uns et les autres fredonnent, taquinent mandoline, bandoneons et concertinus.

Lundi, la tentation ou tout simplement le plaisir d'offrir l'a emporte. Les danseurs ont revetu leur costume. Les musiciens se sont mis aux instruments. Ils ont anime la soiree des habitants de Coulon a l'heure ou savourer la fraicheur procure d'agreables sensations.

Les femmes ont fait claquer les sabots; les hommes, virevolter les mouchoirs aux sons des musiques populaires.

Pas de problem de langue ou de mots a rechercher dans le dictionnaire. Danses et musiques sont universelles. En bord de Sevre ou de Tamise, elles savent raconter a leur maniere la vie et les sentiments des hommes et des femmes a travers les epoques. Tout cela nappe de sourire, de grace, du souci de partager.

Le groupe se tient a la disposition des communes qui souhaitent, d'ici vendredi, bénéficier d'un spectacle, a domicile. Il suffit de prendre contact avec lui, au camping municipal de Magne, le matin."

Friday, Aug 26. Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane.

Weekend, 26 - 30 August. Cotswold weekend. Saturday: The Victoria, Eastleach; The New Inn, Coln St. Aldwyn; The Earl Grey, Quenington; Arlington Row, Bibury; The Green Dragon, Cowley; The King's Head, Withington. Sunday: The Mill and The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa Chedworth: The Seven Tuns, Chedworth. Monday: The Horse and Groom, Oddington. *"Dambusting turned out to be a disaster -the winner was a non-Morris Dancer, a female aged six, one Emma Dearsley."*



Saturday, Sep10. Merry Olde England Medieval Country Craft Fayre, Hampton Court. John Elkins took over a tour partly organised by Mark Jones and Paul Brooks. We danced at The Fayre on Hampton Green; The Alma, Weston Green; The Albany, Thames Ditton; The Fayre again. I can't remember if we stayed to watch the Troubadors, the Combat Knights and the Blim brothers.

Saturday, September 24. Jim Barclay Tour, including the Swan Centre, Leatherhead with Claygate Cloggies.

Weekend October 7 - 9. Godshill instructional weekend.

Saturday, October 15. Leatherhead Festival. TVMM danced at sheltered housing, Beare Green, Ashted with Claygate Cloggies.

Saturday, October 22. Leatherhead Festival. TVMM danced at the peace memorial car park Ashted.

Tuesday, November 1. AGM at the Foley.

Minutes of the AGM.

The men remembered their dead clubmates.

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Brooks, Digger Glaister, Dave Dearsley, Allan Goddard, and Martin Kiff.

Minutes of the 1987 AGM. These were agreed.

The Morris Ring. Extracts from documents recently received from the Morris Ring were read out.

Bagman's Report. The Log, which was written up to date, was accepted as the Bagman's report and was taken as read.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer noted that a small profit had been made in 1987/8 because the large income from hotel do's had been put to good uses e.g. Ladies' Pleasure, the Ale and Krov. The report, which was Jack Garwood's last, was accepted. Jack was thanked for his efforts and asked to thank his wife for making so well many items of our costume over the years.

Annual Ring Meeting Report. Phil Underwood had attended this year's meeting and reported on it, referring particularly to his work in researching Animals and Fools.

Squire's Report. Fran Smith spoke of a very crowded and successful year. He mentioned in particular the visit to Krov, the week's holiday in France and the Dorset weekend. He thought that standards of dancing were being maintained but urged continued practice. He thanked the Men for their support and remarked that he was proud to be Squire.

Election of Officers. The following Officers were elected unopposed: Squire - Fran Smith; Bagman - John Elkins; Treasurer - Robert Peace; Recorder - Mark Jones. On a motion put by Jim Brooks Robert Peace was elected to full membership of the side nem. con. Suggestions were made that the offices of Bagman and Treasurer or Bagman and Recorder should be combined. Discussion was deferred until the next AGM.

Membership of Organisations. It was agreed that we should continue our membership of the Morris Ring (£20), the EFDSS (£25) and the Elmbridge Twinning Guild (£5).

The Peter Dashwood Fund. John Glaister reported that apart from the donation of £200 noted in the Accounts he was organising a Barn Dance at Claygate Village Hall on Friday February 10th the profit from which would go to the fund. He asked the meeting to agree to underwrite the cost of the Dance. It was also suggested that the Boxing Day Bag should be donated to the fund and that, in the event of an Ale being organised this year, some charge should be made and donated to the fund. All these proposals were accepted.

The Woodland Trust. Cyril Smith reported on correspondence with the Trust aimed at prising some sticks from them. No definite result so far. It was left that Mervyn Stanley should pursue this and be empowered to make a further contribution to the Fund if he thought it appropriate.

Fee-paying engagements. Chris Seager-Thomas moved a motion that engagements for which a fee was taken should not be accepted unless a side could be guaranteed in advance. After much discussion the motion was defeated.

Alternative practice venue. Fran Smith noted that we had security of tenure at the Foley for about another two years but that after that the publican had plans to redevelop the hall. There

was a long discussion on the merits of finding an alternative practice venue. In the end it was agreed that Mervyn Stanley should continue with enquiries about alternative venues in the location of Chertsey for an extra practice evening perhaps once a month on a Friday, in addition to the regular Tuesday Practices. Final decision to be taken by the Squire.

Thaxted. Nine men requested that places should be reserved for them at the Ring meeting at Thaxted in 1989.

Irish holiday. John Glaister raised the possibility of a Morris holiday in Ireland in 1989 and asked for an indication of the level of support. Enough hands went up to encourage him to proceed. The location would be about 50 miles south west of Dublin probably for the week beginning August 5th.

Club property. Cyril Smith had drawn up a list of the club's tangible assets (copy follows). It was agreed that someone needed to keep an eye on the location of the various bits and pieces and Cyril agreed to do this helped by Phil Underwood.

Fixtures meeting. A fixtures meeting was arranged for November 22nd.

Boxing Day. Jim Brooks asked for items for the scrapbook for 1988 and for cakes for Boxing Day.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. 22 men having been present.

LIST OF PROPERTIES AT NOVEMBER 1988

Owned by Club and in care of:

C D Smith. 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.

J Glaister. Set of antlers for the Abbots Bromley.

C Seager-Thomas. Jester's costume.

P Underwood. Hobby horse and goat.

J Brooks. Scrapbook.

F Smith. Bound copy of the Morris Books.

Privately owned:

P Underwood. Large collection of fine photographs.

C Seager-Thomas. Albums of photos of TVMM showing waistcoats.

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

C D Smith. 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; tapes of CDS' recollections.

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Jim Brooks wrote, about the AGM: *“Robert calls to take me to Claygate for our A.G.M. which was very pleasant. Finance report was quite satisfactory, our main donation was to Peter Dashwood ex-T.V. member appeal he is suffering from a deteriorating disease £200, and all of our Boxing Day collection 1988. All our usual donations to be carried on. The squire Francis Smith re-elected. Cyril still bagman or assistant to John Adkins [Ed: Elkins], Robert Peace is our new Treasurer, recorder will be the bagmans job. There was a long debate about the long distance fellows finding a venue to meet nearer to them. I expressed my opinion that it should be agreed to providing they all remained faithful and supported the Thames Valley and not form a separate side.”*

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PRESIDENTIAL REVUE OF 1987/8

During the last twelve months TVMM have been saddened by the death of two of their clubmates. Christopher Penton, originally of St Albans MM joined us at our start in 1952 and was our first Squire. He taught us much, he and his wife Nancy helped the club enormously, and he led us through many enjoyable experiences. He died at his own hospital, St Lawrence's at Bodmin last December. Early this year Derek Paynter died. We knew Derek was ill but his sudden death was a shock. He was a good friend and Morris man.

In August Phil and Paula had their second child, Anna. In October Paul and Sandy had their Jonathan. All doing well.

The year has been busy and successful. Last December we had a very good Ale at Claygate being joined by Ewell St. Mary, Grand Union and Yateley.

On Boxing Day we had a good turnout, good morris, good crowds and good weather.

In February we had our Ladies' Pleasure at Pyrford where 45 of us had a good dinner and good dancing afterwards. We danced at Kingston Parish Church at Hocktide as usual. On a Sunday in June we shared with Ewell St. Mary a long afternoon showing the morris at Claygate Garden Centre.

We had a number of local tours, some of them linked with engagements to dance. One such saw us at the riverside at Windsor dancing to entertain a party of German tourists who landed from their boat. We carried out several engagements at London's West End hotels with a certain amount of enjoyment, some prestige and considerable profit.

The Abbots Bromley horns appeared twice, once at Hardwick Barn all night dance and once at the splendid garden party given by Jenny and Siward.

A party of 22 journeyed to Krov/Mosel and enjoyed friendship, free private accommodation, dancing in the wine hall and the great procession, sharing in the performance on the "floating Mosel board" and the wine. Among our German friends Patricia had had her baby and Karen and her family had saved for us some of the rare '76.

Mark Jones organised an excellent weekend camping and dancing on the Dorset/Somerset borders during which John Elkins danced in at his birthplace, West Coker.

Eight Morris Men plus a contingent of Claygate Cloggies and assorted wives/children/loved ones exported English Dancing to Magne - near La Rochelle - for a week in August. A great

time was had by all the highspots being the appearance of our musicians in the local newspaper and on the local radio station. There was also a three man attempt on the French underwater Morris record (Fiat Minibus division) at 3.30 a.m one morning about which perhaps the less said the better!



The Cotswold weekend was up to its usual high standard thanks to Dave Dearsley. Dave has already reported that in a break with tradition Dambusting was won by E.Dearsley (Miss!).

TVMM provided four wine waiters at a dinner given to their French **visitors** from Rueil-Malmaison by the Elmbridge Twinning Guild.

Mole Valley Council engaged TVMM and Claygate Cloggies to share a programme on three occasions in the Leatherhead area. This arrangement was successful and enjoyable.

When TVMM could not accept an invitation to dance at a school fete at East Horsley the teachers there accepted a suggestion that some of the children should be shown some morris and provide a show of their own. CDS instructed. John Walsh has done the same thing for children at Teddington. **Cyril Smith**

Friday, December 2. Pyrford Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3. Dave D's walk from the Duke of Cambridge, Tilford

Tuesday, December 5. Mencap Christmas Party.

Monday, December 26. Claygate. Jim Brooks wrote: *Boxing Day tour round the five pubs in Claygate. I was taken round by Roy, weather was fine and good crowds to watch us. I had 6 cakes for the sword but ran short for the last pub the Griffin. A lot of people told me that they had had a piece of cake for a number of years, one said since 1955 he could remember seeing John Glaister and me dance, he said we didn't look very much older, but a little crockety, and he noticed a few old dancers were missing. One lady said her sister I once danced with was missing because she had died. A couple asked me for some cake to take to their daughter, she has just had a little girl but wanted a boy, she had some cake last year. One young lady and Paul Brooks wife showed me their new babies, Lynda Thompson and Carol Stanley told they were expecting babies, Lynda's fifth. One fellow got quite excited saying that he had worked with me on Gazes [ed: building company?]. The posy I gave to a Japanese girl to take home. Siward Glaister, Robert Peace, Chris S.Thomas, John Elkins, Mervyn Stanley, and Kathleen gave cakes. Our collection was for an ex member Peter Dashwood who is suffering from an incurable disease, only 58 yrs old. The collection came to over £300.00."*

1989 LOG

Friday, February 10. Claygate. Jim Brooks: *“A country dance party was held in the village hall in aid of Peter Dashwood’s support fund. Peter with wife Janet was able to come from Rotherham South Yorkshire. He has a wasting muscle disease and walking with the aid of crutches. He was pleased that I took our scrapbook to look at. I met some old friends to have a chat with, and we put Hughie and Hilda Gibson up until the Monday, and a very pleasant time Kathleen and I had with them.”*

Saturday, February 18. GUM Winter Ale, Denham. A musician and five dancers from TVMM attended and ate Country Garden Soup, Hockle Back Ham, Bonny Green Garnish served by the Maid of the Mill etc etc, and London Pride served by the Nutting Girl.

Friday, February 24, Ladies Pleasure. West Byfleet Squash Club. From the TV Times (Mark Jones); *“Fun for everybody who attended, good food, a pleasant country dance section on the highly polished floor, and Mervyn’s red shirt, which gave us all confidence in the unlikely event of there being a power cut. We dispersed from the West Byfleet Squash Club at around midnight, whereupon the evening ended with Messrs. Melville and Cawdron, and their respective ladies, being refused entry to a local Nightclub.”*

Tuesday, February 28. Harrods. We danced on a freezing cold evening to entertain the crowd queueing outside Harrods in Knightsbridge for a members’ shopping evening. We asked for some refreshment and received some leftover sandwiches and juice. At least we were paid.

Saturday, April 8. Hocktide. Jim Brooks: *“John Glaister picks me up with Sword & Cake to meet at The Bishop Out of Residence in Kingston. Weather is sunny but not many people watching. Kingston Church was very quiet, I used half the cake, then back to The Bishop. At the church a couple of people queried why I was the only clean shaven one amongst us, it just happened to be so, no particular reason, I gave Kate Adkins (ed: Elkins?) the sword posy, she is very interested in me carrying the cake I gave to her the name of my book, the Meaning of the Flowers by Claire Powell, we finished at 2.30 p.m. only eleven of us out.”*

Friday April 14. First practice at the St.John’s Ambulance hut in Woodham, organised by John Glaister.

Friday April 14. Thames Television contributed £10 for the hire of some TVMM kit for a programme on the Taylor of Gloucester.

Sunday April 23. City Arms, Thames Ditton. We danced for our supper of steak and kidney and beer and comfortably outnumbered the paying customers – maybe because it rained and we had to dance in the pub.

Sunday, April 30. Golden Oldies Folk Day, Rugby. To celebrate the presentation of the EFDSS gold badge to Peter Dashwood, Fran Smith, John and Siward Glaister, Malcolm Snowden, Alan Goddard, Peter Jones, Andrew Melville, Tim Cawdron, Mick Jenkins and Steve Ashcroft drove to Rugby for a day of music, country dancing, Morris, Lancashire Clog and Sword Dancing. Performers included TVMM, dancing Oddington, The Yetties, Lutterworth Morris, Bourne River Morris, Handsworth Sword Dancers and Hugh Rippon (M.C.).

Friday, May 5. Spring Fling. Pyrford.

Saturday, May 13. Broadwood Ale, Horsham. Paul Goddard was the only attendee from TVMM.

Saturday, May 20. Siward's Tour. The Anchor, Wisley; Newlands Corner; Shere, by the stream; Tea at Headley Village Hall; The Cock, Headley; The Chequers, Walton on the Hill; King William IV, Mickleham. 21 men were there.

June 2/4. Thaxted Ring Meeting. 9 men from TVMM attended. Mark wrote: *"A good weekend (for the three of us who stayed the weekend). Friday's night's raucous sing-songs were followed by Saturday lunchtime's coach tour of some delightful pubs, with Paul ready to go 15 rounds with the landlord of one of them whose beer was not quite up to his delicate palate. The afternoon showpiece of the festival in the magnificent main street of Thaxted was attended by a crowd of literally thousands, who despite the torrential downpour, stayed to enjoy TV's rendition of the "Old Froghop". The most remarkable occurrence of the day was when we all turned up half an hour before the doors of the hall were due to open for the feast, and Fran muttered quietly to himself "May as well buy everybody a bloody drink". How this was heard by chaps standing a good 30 yards away no-one will ever know, but nonetheless the Squire was instantly frogmarched to the Swan where a human funnel was formed in the direction of the bar"*.

Saturday, June 10. Ewell Day of Dance. 9 men enjoyed the usual excellent walking tour plus lunch, tea and feast.

Saturday, June 17. Andy's tour of Harmondsworth. Harmondsworth School Fayre; The Crown; The Fayre again; Tea at 64 Harmondsworth Lane; The Jolly Farmers, Staines; The Rose and Crown, Thorpe. 19 men. Mark: *"Held in sweltering weather, marked by the unusual (for these days) phenomenon of free pints at every pub. In fact when we had drained two complimentary jugs at the final pub, the tour leader was inside buying another round when more jugs appeared. Many thanks to Jane for a delicious tea."*

Sunday, June 18. Mick Jenkins Tour. The Bones Gate, Chessington; The Kingfisher, Ruxley Lane; West Ewell County First School Fete.

Friday, June 23. Siward's garden party. 22 men. Mark again: *"As usual, wonderful, with sunshine and Morris men in abundance, beer, singing round the bonfire, and of course strawberries. Especially good to see Rick Paine and family there this year. Welcome back even if it was only a flying visit. Rick tells me that by receiving the newsletters he still feels very much in touch with the side."*

Saturday, June 24. Mike Vardy Tour. The Cock, Headley; The Chequers, Walton-on-the-Hill; Nonsuch Girls School!!!!

Tuesday, June 26. The Anchor, Pyrford, and The Ship, Ripley with Jack Straws.

June 31 weekend. Hereford weekend. Camping weekend at Siward's country retreat at Fownhope, Herefordshire. Saturday: The Butchers Arms, Woolhope; Ledbury Market Hall; The Trumpet Arms, Trumpet; The Maylord Centre, Hereford; The Hope and Anchor, Ross on Wye; The Lough Pool Inn, Sellick. Sunday: The Green Man and the New Inn, Fownhope.

Sunday, July 9. Pangbourne. Mediaeval Country Craft Fayre at the Childe Beale Trust, preceded by The Greyhound at Tidmarsh.

Friday, July 14. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington. An International Congress of Play School Activists.

Saturday, July 15. Dave Dearsley Tour. The Bluebell, Dockenfield; The Cherry Tree, Rowledge; The Bourne Village Fete; Tea at the Dearsleys'; The Bat and Ball, Middle Bourne. Mark: *"Kathy "cleaned up" at the Bourne Show with first prize for a cheesecake which survived the heat, the judges and the local inhabitants, but which met its match back at Aveley Lane at the hands of the Morris Men."*

Friday, July 21. Practice at the St.John's Hut.

Tuesday, July 25. Richmond-on-Thames. We danced at the Old Town Hall and The White Cross to coincide with an exhibition of paintings by Elizabeth Rankmore, soon to become Robert Peace's wife.

Friday, July 28. Practice at the St.John's Hut.

August 5-12. Irish Holiday at Drim near Mountrath

Jill Jones writes: "The owner of the farm where TVMM camped was the brother of the park keeper at Heather Vale Park in New Haw. John and Joan used to walk their dog in Heather Vale Park each day and always had a chat with the park keeper. This was in the good old days, when park keepers were park keepers and had a little room with a kettle, just behind the pavilion. I think the chat often included some refreshments, with Joan providing the cake. I still have a bedside table made by the park keeper from the bottom planks (2 inch thick elm) and metal stanchions of "houseboat Helen", which eventually sank (a long time after Peter and I had sold it) in the canal behind Heather Vale. I also have a walking stick made for John by Mr Park Keeper, using a goat horn and stick collected on his family farm and trimmed with various coins of the realm to make shiny metal bands.

During the refreshment breaks, they hatched up the plot for TVMM to have a morris tour based at the farm in Ireland. Unlike many other plots, this one was carried through."

Jan Lucas continues the story. "I remember the following being present: John G, Siward, Fran, Jim Barclay, Martin Kiff, Phil U, Paul Goddard, Peter Jones, and of course myself! (There were also camp followers – Joan G, Jenny G, Margaret Brown, Muff and Sue Tofts.)

The campsite We camped in a pasture near the farmhouse and were allowed into the house every morning for our ablutions. Every morning Michael would collect a bucketful of field mushrooms from the next field and hand it over to us for our breakfast.

Phil U had reluctantly decided not to come with us (can't remember why), but on the first



morning at breakfast we were disturbed by the sound of a distant melodeon, which gradually got louder and louder, until we saw Phil striding over the brow of the hill, rucksack on his back, and melodeon in full roar. Apparently he had changed his mind.



Mountrath On one of the first days there we went into town to dance. It's a small town and there was only one pavement wide enough to dance on, outside one of the bars. We went and asked the landlord permission to dance outside his bar – he was very suspicious, but grudgingly gave us permission. After we'd danced, we went inside for a few guinnesses and some tunes and songs. After a bit, the landlord came over and apologised for being suspicious. "I thought you were some sort of religious cult" he said.

The market One day there was a cattle market just outside Mountrath. There was a bar just across the small lane from the market, and there was constant flow of farmers back and forth, so we thought we'd dance there. Not one farmer paid us the slightest bit of attention, but carried on back and forth to the pub as if we weren't there.

The Gardai incident We were invited to dance at a pub out in the sticks... after dancing there was a music session in the barn behind the pub with some locals. There was a bit of a frosty atmosphere at first, some of the locals were decidedly anti-English, but as soon as they realised we were into playing music and having a good time, they thawed. The session then went on until quite late, way past closing time, and eventually the landlord came in, hissing that the gardai were here so "shut the feck up" and he turned out the lights.



We were left in the dark for some minutes (with only the sound of Siward's heart valve ticking away) when we heard voices outside. The door opened slowly, and a torch played around the crowd inside... "so there's nobody here then?" said the garda and then the lights were switched on.

If you were caught drinking after hours you could be fined, but they wouldn't bother with non-Irish nationals, so we all filed out of the barn past the gardai, declaring "I'm a morris man", and were so let off. A number of the locals also declared themselves morris men, including the local priest.

The peat bog One of the local musicians we got friendly with (can't remember his name now) owned some land on which there was a peat bog, and he invited us to see it one day. He invited us to walk barefoot over the turf, as it was very soft and springy. He was a botanist as I remember it, and proudly told us the names of every small wild flower.

Tuesday, August 15. The Foley. Cyril Smith introduced a new Oddington dance of his own invention at practice (which was subsequently entitled the President.)

Weekend August 18/20. Alfriston weekend. Organised by Jan Lucas and based around The Sussex Ox.

August 25/28. Cotswold weekend. Saturday: The Swan, Southrop; The Earl Grey, Quenington; The Victoria, Eastleach; Eastleach Fete; The Green Dragon, Cowley; Apres-Morris at The Kings Head. Sunday: The Mill and The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth. Monday lunchtime The Horse and Groom, Oddington. Dave Dearsley wrote: *“Dear John, The Eastleach Fete organisers sent me a cheque for £40 in lieu of lunch – I also had two telephone calls from them, one from an ex-business colleague who asked us to dance originally and another from the landlord – all apologising abjectly and blaming each other for the slip up. As a result I enclose my cheque for the amount and have cancelled the nuclear strike on St.Martin’s, Eastleach. See you, Dave.”* Mark Wrote: *“Well attended as always, even Alan Dean and family showing up on the Sunday. A very proud Tim Cawdron won this year’s Dambusters competition and inscribed his name on the famous Bog Seat.”*

September 9. Mark’s Tour. The Three Mariners, Bagshot; The Brickmaker’s Arms, Windlesham; The Crown, Chertsey; Chertsey Agricultural Show; Tea at Mark and Penny’s; The Wheatsheaf, Camberley; The Castle Grove, Chobham. Mark: *“The biggest audience of the day was provided by the staff of a Chinese fish and chip shop”.*

September 16. Yateley Day of Dance.

September 23rd. Robert Peace married Elizabeth at St.Mary’s Church, Ham. TVMM provided a guard of honour. A party of wives and girlfriends watched TVMM dancing at the reception and concluded that the best bottom belonged to Jim Barclay. Elizabeth wrote: *“There are some lovely photographs of all the dancing, but somehow the goat seemed to have got loose and appeared in many of*



the wedding couple’s photos. Perhaps he felt left out if he wasn’t always the centre of attention. He certainly was jealous of the bridegroom upon the step because there is photographic evidence of the bridegroom being attacked by the scruff of the neck.”

September 29. Godshill weekend.

Friday, Oct 27. Last practice at the St,John’s Hall, New Haw.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE FOLEY HALL, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 1989.

The men remembered their dead clubmates. George Lawrence, Norman Keam, Bill Toft, Gordon Smith, Christopher Penton, Derek Paynter, Dick Musson.

Attendance. The following members attended the AGM: L.Bailey, J.Barclay, J.Brooks, P.Brooks, T.Cawdron, J.Elkins, J.Farrant, J.Glaister, S.Glaister, A.Goddard, P.Goddard, M.Jenkins, M.Jones, P.Jones, M.Kiff, J.Lucas, A.Melville, R.Peace, C.Smith, F.Smith, G.Thompson, S.Tovey, P.Underwood.

Apologies for absence, were received from D.Dearsley, D. Glaister, S.Ashcroft.

Minutes of the 1988 AGM. These were agreed.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer presented the accounts for 1988/89. There had been a loss of £175 on the year but this still left the club with £1,256 in the bank at the end of the year. Profits on engagements were down from £1,116 in 1987/88 to only £260. Income from tours was also down but this was partly because the Boxing Day bag had been donated to the Peter Dashwood fund. The club had raised £2,228 for the fund mostly from the Ceilidh in January. The accounts were accepted

Bagman's Report. The Bagman revealed details of the register which he had kept over the year. Including practices six people had turned out more than 50 times, six between 30 and 40, five between 20 and 30, eight between 10 and 20 and 14 less than 10. There had been about 25 events during the year and the most popular had been Boxing Day (27), Siward's Tour (23), the Dashwood Ceilidh (20), and the Cotswolds (20). The tours organised by Andy, Mark, Dave Dearsley and Paul Brooks, the Hereford weekend and the evenings in Richmond and with Jack Straws had attracted numbers in the teens and all other events had pulled in 11 or fewer people. Attendance at other sides' Ales had been particularly thin - Thaxted 8, Ewell 10, GUM 6 and Broadwood 1! This seemed to indicate that it was the traditional home tours which were most popular with the side and that visits to other sides' Ales and to other parts of the country were a minority taste.

Squire's Report. Fran Smith spoke of a very crowded and successful year. He summarised the main events of the year and drew particular attention to the excellent turn out on Boxing Day, to the enormous success of the Dashwood Ceilidh, and to another successful Morris holiday, this time in Ireland. The side had attended the Ring Meeting at Thaxted and the Peter Dashwood day at Rugby and had been complimented on its standard of dancing at both. No tours had failed for lack of support but the low attendances at the Broadwood and GUM Ales and at the Ladies Pleasure should make us think carefully about committing the side to similar events in future.

An average of 11.37 people had attended Tuesday practices at the Foley but considerably fewer had taken advantage of Friday practices at New Haw. Practice was the bedrock of our standards and the Squire urged more people to attend. He also noted that the average age of the side was gradually increasing and that we needed to recruit some fresh blood.

He thanked his fellow officers and all the members of the side for their support during the year.

Election of officers. The following officers were re-elected unopposed: Squire - Fran Smith. Bagman - John Elkins. Treasurer - Robert Peace. Recorder - Mark Jones.

The Morris Ring. Phil Underwood spoke of his work with the Animal Disguise Archive. It was agreed to continue membership of the Ring.

EFDSS. In a discussion about recent events in the EFDSS and the merits of continuing membership, recent political manoeuvres in the society were universally deplored but several people specifically mentioned the value of the Vaughan-Williams Library. It was decided to renew the side's membership and to make a specific donation of £20 to the library. Cyril Smith said that he had voted on behalf of Thames Valley in the recent election.

Elmbridge Twinning Guild. Cyril Smith proposed that the side's membership of the Elmbridge Twinning Guild should be renewed and this was agreed.

The Woodland Trust. It was also agreed that the club should renew its membership of the Woodland Trust. It was noted that Mervyn Stanley had obtained some sticks from the Trust and would be trying to get some more.

The Treasurer's Wedding. The Squire read out a letter received from the Treasurer's wife thanking the club for its wedding present of wine glasses.

Irish holiday. John Glaister suggested that TVMM's good offices should be made available to our Irish friends in the matter of the Gardai. Fran agreed to write.

Costume. Mark Jones commented that the standard of Thames Valley kit had not compared well with other sides at Thaxted. A discussion ensued. It was agreed that no fundamental change in kit should be recommended but that a general smartening up/cleaning would be appropriate. The Bagman agreed to pursue the purchase of new hats and sticks and to coordinate stocks of material etc.

Rapper. Cyril Smith made a plea for Rapper to be reintroduced into the Thames Valley repertoire. It was agreed that an effort should be made to incorporate Rapper into Tuesday practices.

Boxing Day. Jim Brooks asked for items for the scrapbook for 1989 and for cakes for Boxing Day.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. 23 men having been present.

Tuesday, Nov 14. Fixtures meeting at the Foley. John E. "Only eight people turned up – but it didn't make it any shorter.

Saturday, November 18. TVMM Ale, Claygate. Jim Brooks: "*The Ale at Claygate Youth Club centre, attended by Yateley, Ewell St. Mary's, Spring Grove, Grand Union, 15 T/V. I was surprised to see a number of Kirtlington and Eynsham dances. Pickles and Red [cabbage] were enjoyed by all, some asked me for my secret of pickling.*"

Tuesday, December 26. Boxing Day Claygate. Jim Brooks: "*A lovely sunny day and starting off at the Swan to a small crowd, better at the Foley, and Hare & Hounds large at mid-day. I used up seven cakes, which means we had a large number of spectators over all. John Elkins, Siward Glaister, John Glaister, Robert Peace, John Farrant, Steve Ashcroft wives were sent thank you cards. A lot of people told me they had been having the cake for a number of years, including John Cole and Michael Aspel of the B.B.C. One young lady*

showed me her swollen tummy saying it was because she had some of my Fertility cake last year. The posy I gave to Doris Sutton Wendy's mother-in-law."

Wednesday, December 27. Jim Brooks: *"I receive a letter from Muriel Mason to say Angus Mason died on the 12th of December of a massive heart attack. He his brother Clive with James Sowerby taught me my first morris steps. Also they were the first dancers I saw in 1929 at Windsor Street Schools Chertsey Surrey, where the Curfews team formed, dancing into the Morris ring in 1938."*

1990 LOG

Saturday, Feb 10. Yateley. John Glaister and Mervyn Stanley attended an Ilmington workshop and Winter Ale staged by Yateley MM.

Saturday, Feb 17. Isle of Wight. Paul Goddard and Martin Kiff attended the Men of Wight Winter Ale.

Tuesday, February 20. Foley Arms. Jim Brooks: *“Robert takes me to practice, which turned out to be a very good one. Dancing was good but for the poor side-stepping, tendencies to run or jump on to a big first step then full stop for finish without any hop, and no crossed feet in the cross overs.”*

Sunday, March 25. Riverhouse Barn.

Sunday, April 8, Richmond Park Tavern, Kingston. Mark wrote: *“Thames Valley arrived (promptly!) to find the F.A Cup Semi-Final in full swing on the T.V. Whereupon we immediately all became Crystal Palace supporters for the day. The match was interspersed by two fine dancing spots (helped no doubt by the landlord’s generous placing of watering cans full of bitter). Even Peter Davies turned up, had wavers thrust in his hands and either willingly or not joined in.”*

Tuesday, April 10. Claygate. Jim Brooks: *“Robert took me with Kathleen to Claygate Youth Centre for Siward and Jenny’s Silver Wedding party. It was very enjoyable meeting some old friends, the side danced for them, also John Glaister’s ladies team from Egham in Surrey.”*

Monday April 23. St. George’s Day. Another evening at the City Arms, Thames Ditton.

Tuesday, April 24. Foley Arms. Jim Brooks: *“Robert gave me a lift to practice which was very well attended, dancing Fieldtown and Oddington and Cyril’s President dance. He had typed it out and got me to read it out to him as his eyesight is poorly.”*

Saturday, April 28. K.O.T. Jim Brooks: *“Squire Francis picked me up to go to Hock-Tide. We started at the Bishop Out of Residence down by the River, danced for an hour then went over to Kingston Parish Church, very few spectators to watch so after ¾ hr. we went back to the river side and finished at 2-30 p.m. I carried the sword and cake. At the pub a rather old lady expressed her feelings for the men dancing so enthusiastically she thoroughly enjoyed watching. At the church a Chinese couple were very interested in the cake and Sword so I told them the whole Boxing Day story, another young fellow was so interested he asked to join us next Tuesday at practice. The old lady at the Pub was an ex-ballet dancer. While I was at the Bishop a fellow came rushing up to me to shake my hand and saying he worked with me at Gazes. We had a good chat about our working life he was Ken Woodward.”*

Saturday, May 12. Spring Grove Day of Dance. Dance spots in Richmond and Kingston, and feast at Bedelsford School near the Spring Grove pub.

May 18/20. Felixstowe. Paul Goddard wrote: *“The majority arrived on Friday evening to a Felixstowe which was over-cast and very drafty. Pitching next to us was the Morrigan (a band, folk meets heavy rock and comes second). When Lester arrived they moved. The*

evening was spent looking for food, in a staid sing/play around, and finally, to everyone's relief, a ceilidh.

Breakfast the next morning was provided by the PTA, which was enjoyed by everyone, except someone who forgot to get up. Fran arrived and moaned. This time it was because a) someone had moved Felixstowe further away and b) he had arrived early.

Jan (Sue's friend who met us in Ireland and invited us to the Felixstowe festival; she is on the organising committee) came to collect us at 10:15 for 11:00 (yes she has met us before) and we arrived just in time for the start of the procession. We had to process the length of the high street, two thirds of a mile, but fortunately Muff had brought her large harp. This meant she had a porter's trolley which meant we were followed by a mobile mound of belongings with Muff's legs protruding somewhere underneath. At great cost to us we managed to hire out Lester to another team in the procession, for which they were suitably grateful.

After the procession there was a very long pause after which we did a spot. We were accompanied by Touchwood Appalachian, a very good step dance team. Unfortunately they really needed a wood surface for proper effect, but the practise set them in good stead for Chippenham Folk festival the following weekend. Thus it continued, a very long pause followed by a short spot, all afternoon, up and down the High street and the sea front. Jan accompanied us until her team, Danegeld, caught us up, and so was forced to dance. They do North-west in bright yellow and red. Their drummer had an interesting style. It was obviously the inspiration for Thoreau's drummer quote, in so much as it was correlated to the beat of the dance in a very esoteric way. This style was used to great effect by a member of our team later on. Danegeld were at Chippenham, minus Jan who was recovering from all the Felixstowe organisation, plus the drummer who still played the same. They also had a bass guitarist.

Tea was in a pub under the pretext we had to talk to everyone else.

In the evening we went to the Ferryman, just outside Felixstowe. A wonderful establishment with tiled floor, beer out of the barrel, good food and a campsite nearby. We had a music session, and some clog from one of Touchwood. An ideal base for a future weekend at Felixstowe (hint, hint).

The day/night was rounded off by another late night ceilidh. Our sympathy went to Phil who ruptured something in his leg, more internal than his wallet. However it did prove that Phil is never in the Goat as the Goat never limped the whole weekend. On the subject of the Goat, Jan will be sending a bill for cleaning off all the black stuff, but she did not say from where.

Sunday morning was very subdued. We did some dancing, borrowing a bloke or two from another side. After some light refreshment we set forth for home. So after this weekend of dance we ask is this art, and reply no, it's TVMM.

Saturday, June 2. Helen Jones wedding, All Saints Church New Haw. Peter and Jill's daughter Helen was driven to the church by Billy Wakefield in one of his veteran cars, and married Mark Asher. Peter gave Helen away and danced a jig outside the church. TVMM formed an arch for the bride and groom and danced after the service. Several attended the evening BBQ at Peter's house in Horsell.



Saturday, June 9. Ewell Day of Dance. Steve Ashcroft, Jim Barclay, John Elkins, Paul Goddard, Mick Jenkins, Martin Kiff, Malcolm Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Peter Davis, Lester Bailey.

Saturday, June 16. Martin Kiff's Brakspeare tour. The Bottle and Glass, Binfield Heath; The Cherry Tree, Stoke Row; Greys Court, Rotherfield Greys; The Carpenters Arms, Crocker End; The Rising Sun, Witheridge Hill.

Tuesday, June 19. Queen's Hotel, Farnborough. Jan Lucas, John Elkins, Peter Jones, Martin Kiff, Pete Davis, Tim Cawdron, Mervyn Stanley, Alan Goddard, John Glaister. Performed for Citibank, and £100. John E. wrote to the agency: *The dancing went off well but the organisers really messed us about. Instead of dancing at 9.15 we didn't start until nearly 10.45!! If we had been able to negotiate with the client directly we were in a mood either to call the dancing off or to insist on more money. If you have any leverage with the client we would welcome some compensation for our extra time wasted.* There's no record of the reply.

Friday, June 22. Siward's garden party.

Saturday, June 23. Claygate school fete.

June 30 weekend. Hereford tour.

Tuesday, July 3. Evening with Home Made Pickle. Poor beer, and no crowd, probably because the World Cup was on TV.



Wednesday, July 4. Brighton. An evening dance spot at Metropole Hotel for Post Graduate Services! £325.

Saturday, July 7. Chard. A small flying squad provide a guard of honour at St. Mary's church for Adrian's wedding and ate and danced afterwards at the reception.

Saturday, July 14. Jack Garwood's Downlands Tour. The Three Moles, Selham; The Unicorn, Heyshott; Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton; Tea at 15 Gloucester Way; The George Eartham; The Fox Goes Free, Charlton. Andy turned his ankle over dancing on the grass at The Unicorn and took no further part in Thames Valley dancing activities for a month or two.

Saturday, July 21. Flower Show. After a break of several years TVMM danced at the event where the side made its first ever appearance in 1952, as well as at The Foley.

Tuesday, July 31. The Castle Grove, Chobham, with Yateley MM.

Saturday, August 4. Tim Cawdron's Wedding Tour. The Sussex Cricketer, Eaton Road, Hove; The wedding, Church of the Sacred Heart, Hove; The Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park; Dean's Place Hotel, Alfriston. There was a pool at the hotel and we were asked to be quite during the speeches.

Thursday, August 9. Hotel Intercontinental, Park Lane. John Elkins, John Glaister, Paul Goddard, Mark Jones, Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Siward Glaister, Mervyn Stanley, Peter Davis danced for a Round Britain Dinner. £250.

August 10/12. Isle of Wight Ring Meeting. Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, John Farrant, John and Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Mark Jones, Peter Jones, Martin Kiff, Jan Lucas, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Phil Underwood. TVMM toured by open bus stopping first at The Buddle Inn at Niton. Then to Ventnor where TVMM danced with Taunton Deane at The Spyglass. Then to the Winter Gardens, and the Botanic Gardens.

After lunch we boarded the bus for the mass display at Sandown Esplanade and, if memory serves right we all had to get off the bus and push to help it up a very steep hill. Other memories are of Mark nearly succeeding in drinking all the available Burt's Beer on Friday afternoon before the rest of the party arrived, and Victory MM throwing someone into a water butt, and throwing lit paper darts around the feast. TVMM remained aloof.

August 17. Alfriston weekend.

August 24/27. The Cotswolds. Saturday: The Crown, Langford; The Five Bells, Broadwell; The Five Alls, Filkins; Eastleach Fete; The Frog Mill, Andoversford; The Kings Head. Sunday: The Mill and the Kings Head, Withington; the Roman Villa, Chedworth, with tea on the lawn; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth. Monday: The Horse and Groom, Oddington.

Saturday, Sep 8. Peter Jones' Not Really a Tour. The Vine, Chertsey; The Chertsey Show; Ladies Pleasure and Bar-B-Q at Peter's home on Horsell Common.

Sunday, Sep 8. Mediaeval Country Craft Fayre, Hampton Court. Dancers included Paul Brooks, Pete Davis, Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Graeme Thompson plus John Glaister.

Saturday, Sep 15. Yateley Day of Dance. Performers included Lester Bailey, John Farrant, John Glaister, Paul Goddard, Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Steve Tovey.

Sunday, Sep 23. The Barbican. Did we dance for the Canadian Bar Association?

Weekend Sep 28/30. Godshill.

Saturday, Oct 13. Pyford. TVMM danced and played for a Memorial dance for Jennie Rannie which raised £683.63 for the Sam Beare Ward.

Friday, Oct 26. One World Day, Woking.

Saturday, Oct 27, Harmondsworth Parish Barn Dance. John Glaister, Fran Smith, Siward Glaister, Mervyn Stanley, Tim Cawdron, Andy Melville, Steve Ashcroft, John Elkins, Peter Davis, Ate and danced after warming up at The Crown.

Tuesday, November 20. Foley Arms. A.G.M. [Minutes missing] Fran Smith was re-elected Squire, Robert Peace Treasurer, John Elkins, Bagman. Jim Brooks: *"A.G.M. very quiet. A long discussion of the ladies joining in on tours, nothing resolved. Phil Underwood is very much involved with the Ring Archives. I get 6 names for Boxing Day cakes. Francis Smith and John Elkins give me photos for the T/V scrapbook."*

Tuesday, Nov 27. Fixtures Meeting.

Wednesday, December 26th. Boxing Day. Jim Brooks: *"Boxing Day and rain all the time. We manage to dance outside at each pub, but very few people to watch. I had seven cakes for the sword but only used three, the others were returned. Cakes were from Mervyn Stanley, Jim Barclay, Mark Jones, Robert Peace, Steve Tovey. The posie I gave to my grand-daughter Marie. Two sides turned out with a few reserves."*

1991 LOG

Weekend, Jan 18/20. Harthill. Jan Lucas attended a Morris Ring Sherborne Instructional run by Bert Cleaver.

Saturday, Jan 26. Fran's 50th party at Claygate Youth Centre.

Sunday, March 17. Foley Arms. Jim Brooks: *"A workshop practice attended by 11 men. The Squire concentrated on dances not very well danced at Tuesdays practice. To my surprise he was teaching a dance I had wanted the team to learn when I was Squire, but the fellows always refused to dance it, Adderbury "Sweet Jenny Jones" a single stepping dance with the ft. swing forward and down, which I was able to show them. Alan Dean turned up, and I was able to give him some literature. John Alkin [ed: Elkins] gave me some reading matter to take home. I arranged with Robert Peace to collect the Sword for Hock Tide at K.O.T. on April 13th. I will be at my grandsons Band Contest in Tolworth."*

Tuesday, April 9. Foley Arms. Jim Brooks: *"Robert takes me to a splendid practice 22 men fighting to get a dance. Phil ferries home to collect the tape I made of my old 78s morris records and the Curfew Squires stave for the K.O.T. Folk exhibition. He gave me a lovely poster for it designed by Grahame Thompson with the sword and cake showing in it with the Hobby Horse. I return the literature to John Elkins, Robert takes the pickled shallots and cabbage for the Ale on Saturday 13th. I will be going to see David in the Band contest at Tolworth."*

Thursday, April 11. K.O.T. Jim Brooks: *"Kathleen and me go to Kingston Heritage Museum and spend an hour looking at our Folk Exhibition, a really lovely show fixed by Phil and Paula Underwood. I take a very old Kingston shop brochure of G.M.Tyler shoe shop of 39 Thames Street and the curator was very pleased to have it, even gave me a receipt for it, now in my scrapbook."*

[The Folk Exhibition was called "All the Wilde-Heds of the Parish (Morris Dancing in Kingston, 1507-1991) and included sections on Tudor Morris, The Morris in Surrey, The Morris Revival, The Betley Window, The Kingston May Games Window, Hocktide, and Thames Valley Morris Men.]

Saturday, April 13. Hocktide, Kingston. TVMM were joined by Royal Borough and Spring Grove for a tour of The Bishop Out of Residence, The Parish Church, the Marketplace, The Bishop again, a couple of other pubs and the Swinnerton Hall for the Ale. Jim Brooks: *"It was the first time I have missed our Hock-Tide at Kingston Church, and Ale in the evening, but I managed to get my pickled shallots and red cabbage to the Ale and lend my sword and cake dish to be used."*

Tuesday, Apr 23. St. George's Day at the City Arms. Paul Brooks, Pete Davis, John Glaister, Paul Goddard, Mick Jenkins, Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Phil Underwood, John Elkins.

Saturday, Apr 27. East Molesey. A paid appearance at the East Molesey Working Men's Club for East Molesey Conservatives.

Friday, May 3. Pyrford Spring Fling.

Saturday, May 11. Peter Jones Tour. The Cricketers, then The Plough, Horsell; White Lodge Spastic Centre, Chertsey; Tea at Peter's; Heathervale Rec. New Haw, to celebrate re-opening of the Basingstoke Canal; The White Harte, New Haw; The Bleak House, Woodham.

May 17/19. Felixstowe Folk Weekend. Lester Bailey, Jim Barclay, John Glaister, Allan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Martin Kiff, Jan Lucas, Fran Smith, Graeme Thompson, Phil Underwood.

Saturday, June 1. Martin's Not Quite the Brakspears Tour. The Fleece and Feathers, Ashampstead; The Bell, Aldworth; Mapledurham House; The Pack Horse, Chazey Heath; King Charles Head, Goring Heath.

Saturday, June 8. Alfriston. Camping at the Sussex Ox plus, on Saturday, Dancing in the Village Square, Alfriston, at The Ram at Firle and The Sussex Ox, with musical evenings at The Sussex Ox.

Friday, June 21. Siward's Garden Party

Saturday, June 22. Jan and Muff's housewarming, Addlestone.

Thursday, June 27. The Ship, Ripley. An evening with Grand Union Morris.

Saturday, June 29. Mark's Tour. The Bee, then The Sun, Windlesham; The Three Mariners, Bagshot; Lightwater Country Park; Tea at Mark and Penny's; The Wheatsheaf, Heatherside; The Castle Grove, Chobham.

July 5 -7. Krov The Bagman, John Elkins, wrote a grovelling letter to the Verkehrsburo Krov in August 1990 asking to be invited to the 1991 festival and offering to pay our own travelling expenses. The invitation duly arrived in January. Old-timers reminisced about driving to Krov in minibuses but were over-ruled by the Bagman. John Farrant introduced us to Cars International (John the Coach) who we hired to pick us up in Kingston and then at Siward's House in Woodham on Thursday evening and drive us overnight from Ramsgate to Dunkerque to arrive in Krov around lunchtime.



Was this the trip with the disgusting toilets in the Belgian motorway service station?

The Tourist Office offered free accommodation (and crash mats) on a classroom floor in the village school, but some of our party preferred B&B, which they had to pay for, and which the tourist office organised. The party comprised: **Campers:** Jim Barclay, Sarah Kilby, Ray Campbell, Pete Davis, Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, Kate Elkins, Allan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Peter Jones, Jill Jones, Martin Kiff, Jan Lucas, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Mike Vardy. **B&B:** Tim & Sue Cawdron, The Cawdron party – Neil Stacey, Shirley Ellis, Lynn Khan, Mrs B.Cawdron), John Farrant, Maggie Lawrance, Sue and Matthew Pickersgill,

Siward and Jenny Glaister, Mark and Penny Jones, Phil and Paula Underwood, Bill and Linda Wakefield, Stewart and Christine Lindsay.



The Tourist Office provided free Fruhstuck, Mittagessen and Abendessen meal tickets for the performers, to be cashed in at the Mittelmoselhalle. They also gave us a quantity of bottles of local wine, which we put to good use. One of the other clubs lodging in the school was the Rakonica Ensemble from Gyor in Hungary, men and women, led by Fajkusz Attila. They had little money, home-made instruments, and a commissar who kept a close

watch on them. We made friends with them and donated our free wine for a dance off in the playground one evening. In one dance the girls formed a semi-circle chanting and watching the boys do show off jigs. When asked what they were singing they said they were commenting on the boys' bottoms.

Apart from that we danced at the Old Peoples' Home, in the Weinbrunnenhalle, twice on the Schwimmenden Moselbuhne, in the Procession on Sunday afternoon, and all over the town in between.

Friday, July 14. Guildford Rotary Carnival.

Saturday, July 20. Save the Children Fete, Hampton Court. Steve Ashcroft, Fran, Paul Goddard, Martin, John Elkins, Mervyn, Pete Davis, and Robert danced at a home for Vietnamese children at Hampton Court House.

Saturday, July 20. Ladies Pleasure at Peter Jones' house, Horsell Common.

Sunday, July 21. Morris Day at the Mid-Hants Watercress Line. Fran, John Glaister, Paul Brooks, Mervyn, Jim Barclay, Dave Dearsley, Mark, Jan and Robert took advantage of the free tickets to play with steam trains and dance. Ten other teams took part.

Tuesday, July 23. Esher. An evening with Home Made Pickle at the Prince of Wales, West End.

Saturday, July 27. Headley Flower Show Tour organised by Paul Goddard. The Royal Oak, Leatherhead Common; The Bell, Fetcham; Hedley Flower Show; The Cock, Headley; The King William IV, Mickleham.

Tuesday, July 29. Ripley. An evening with Jack Straws at The Ship.

August. Lake District camping holiday organised by John Farrant and Dave Henderson at Docker near Kendal. Apparently it rained a lot on the campers in a scenic field, but there was dancing at Windermere, Hawkshead, Kendal and maybe other places. Those



present were John Farrant (and Maggie), Dave Henderson, Tony Brown (and Margaret), Peter Jones, Mick and Lewis Jenkins, Fran Smith, John Glaister, Siward Glaister and Jennie), supported by friends and family including Jill and Roger Marsden.

Aug 17 Weekend. Alfriston.

Aug 24 Weekend. The Cotswolds. Saturday: The Daneway Inn, near Cirencester; The Bell Inn, Sapperton; The Tunnel House, near Coates; Cirencester Market Place; The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney; The Kings Head, Withington. Sunday: The Mill Inn followed by The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth.



Tuesday, August 27. Richmond. The Old Town Hall and The White Cross, to coincide with an exhibition of watercolours by Elizabeth Peace.

Sunday, September 1. Thorpe Field Charity. We danced (for money) on the field. Wasn't Dennis Norden there?

Saturday, September 7. Jack Straws Day of Dance. The Swan and the Crown, Chiddingfold; Winkworth Arboretum; Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright.

Sunday, September 8. Esso Safe & Healthy Living Fair, Leatherhead. We danced (for money) between displays of Hard Bodies(!), Reflexology and Homeopathy.

Saturday, September 14. Chertsey. John Glaister Tour. The Vine, Chertsey; The Chertsey show; Tea at Jill's; The White Hart, New Haw; The Victoria, Woodham.

Sunday, September 22. Walton Country Weekend.

Saturday, September 28. The End of it All Tour. Jim Barclay organised a tour of The Alma, Weston Green; The Swan, Walton: Tea at Jan and Muff's; The Pelican, Addlestone; The Bleak House, Woodham.

Friday, Oct 25. One World Day, Woking.

Saturday, Nov 9. Jessie Rannie Barn Dance, Byfleet.

Tuesday, Nov 12. Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. John Elkins and Tim Cawdron ferried John Farrant, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, John Hall, Martin Kiff, Robert Peace, Malcom Snowden, Mick Jenkins and Paul Goddard in two cars from The Griffin, Claygate to the Grosvenor for an 11.00 p.m. appearance for loadsamoney.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26th 1991

Attendance. 23 men attended the meeting.

Apologies for Absence. John Elkins, Graeme Thompson.

Minutes of the 1990 AGM. The Bagman was required to stay at work and could not attend. The 1990 AGM minutes were therefore not available.

The side remembered former members who are no longer with us. George Lawrence, Norman Keam, Bill Tofts, Gordon Smith, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Peter Dashwood, Dick Musson.

Squire's Report. The squire reported that he had forgotten how many years he had been squire - the men agreed. He then went over the highlights of the year: Hocktide - successful, Felixstowe - a long way to go, Alfriston - an excellent event, Jen & Siward's garden party - most successful, Krov - wonderful, Ladies' Pleasure - enjoyed by all, Lake District Holiday - wet but fun. He thought that the standard of dance had slowly deteriorated - we are getting older - but against that he was happy to report that a number of people had commented on how well the side was dancing. On balance a good and very happy year, with the side conscious of their dancing and behaviour. The standard of dress was in some cases shabby. The President suggested a move to baseball caps! He was pleased to report that our three apprentices remained committed and loyal and were making good progress. Practice nights could always be better attended but on average some 14 men make Tuesdays. It was difficult to arrange practice programmes since he never knew who would be at practice. He was

confident for the future. Apart from our usual busy calendar there would be trips to Holland in 1992 and possibly to Japan in 1993. He thanked the men for their support during the year and especially mentioned the officers, John Elkins and Robert Peace and also John Glaister, Jim Brooks and the President, Cyril Smith.

Bagman's Report. As mentioned earlier, John Elkins was unable to attend.

Treasurer's Report. In the absence of copies of the report (with the Bagman) Robert ran through the main items of income and expenditure. Cash in hand was £880.48.

Other Business. Thanks were given to Paula and Phil Underwood for their efforts in compiling the splendid "All the Wild Heads of the Parish" exhibition in Kingston in April 1991.

In a general discussion about practices the idea of appointing a foreman was discussed but not adopted. It was agreed that practice would start at 7.30 for apprentices with the main practice starting at 8.30.

Some Tuesdays would be devoted to particular traditions. The squire asked for volunteers to run them and to be responsible for that tradition's standards.

It was agreed that practice subs should remain at the present level.

It was agreed to retain membership of the Morris Ring, the Twinning Guild, the EFDSS and the Woodland Trust.

A large mirror would be bought for practices.

Jim Brooks has a contact who is prepared to make regalia. Fran and Mervyn are to investigate a supply of new hats. The side voted against producing a Squire's badge.

It was suggested that a fixtures handout should be produced.

Jim Brooks asked for cakes for Boxing Day and for photographs for the scrap book.

The side asked Phil Underwood to make a new photographic collection of waistcoats and the Squire was asked to recover the photographs belonging to the side presently held by Chris Seager-Thomas. [*n.b. The Chris Seager-Thomas photograph album was returned to the side in 2018 after his death.*]

Mick Jenkins mentioned the Claygate Folk Day planned for 1992 and the side decided to take part.

Phil Underwood thought that the side had danced too often with womens' sides in 1991. The Squire suggested that if we were to dance out with any other sides on tours full details of intentions should be given at the Fixtures Meeting.

Election of Officers. The Squire was prepared to continue in office. Siward Glaister nominated Phil Underwood, seconded by Martin Kiff. The side voted to re-elect Fran Smith. The following officers were re-elected unopposed: Bagman - John Elkins, Treasurer - Robert Peace.

The meeting started at 8.15 and ended at 10.30.

JimBrooks: *“The A.G.M. taken by Phil Underwood. Return the team scrapbooks and our first Squires Stave. All the officers were returned to office, and our usual contributions to be repeated again for this year. Long debate about our regalia, should it be changed to a simple design, but it ended up just leaving it as it is. I pointed out that I had written to John Elkins in the summer and gave him the name of Jo Wainwright from Walton, step-daughter of Angus Mason, who is willing to make all of our Regalia for nothing but he seems to having done nothing about it. It was pointed out by Cyril that the gold cord was unobtainable. I proposed that we purchased a Squires medallion to be worn for recognition particularly when dancing abroad. Peter Jones gave me a couple of photos of his daughter’s wedding and two of Krov for T/V scrapbook. Phil gave me back my Curfew baldric and the T/V scrapbook.”*

Sunday, December 1. Mark and Penny’s walk from their house and back by way of The Three Mariners.

Tuesday, December 3. The Foley. Fixtures Meeting.

Thursday, December 26. Claygate. Jim Brooks: *“Boxing Day tour round the five pubs in Claygate. A large crowd of spectators at each stop. Robin Cobb and Lewis Jenkins danced their way in to become full members of the side at the Hare and Hounds. I tripped over Siwards foot and fell, losing some cake. It was a good turn out of 20 men. John Elkins gave me my copy of the first Ring log book. Weather was dry and sunny. Cakes made by wives of Mervyn Stanley, Mark Jones, John Farrant, Mick Jenkins, Paul Brooks and Kathleen. I sent all thank you cards, as usual.”* The Bag was £428.

1992 LOG

Saturday, April 11. The Peacock Centre, Woking.

Thursday, April 23. Thames Ditton. St. George's Day at the City Arms.

Friday, May 1. Pyrford Spring Fling.

Tuesday, May 5. The Thames Valley goat appears on Eastenders.

Tuesday, May 5. Jim Brooks: *"Robert Peace collects the Sword and T/V scrapbook with Pickles for Hocktide and Ale on Saturday"*.

Saturday, May 9. Kingston. Hocktide. TVMM danced at 11.00 with Greensleeves, who then went off to Richmond, and returned in the afternoon. Meanwhile TVMM, GUM, Ewell, Spring Grove and Yateley danced at The Bishop Out of Residence, The Marketplace, The Gazebo, The Parish Church, Boaters, and then to the Ale in the Swinnerton Hall. We donated £25 to the Parish Church.

Saturday, May 16. Peter Jones' Tour. The Plough and The Cricketers, Horsell; "another pub": Tea at Peter's; "another pub"; The Bleak House, Woodham.

Sunday, May 17. Paul Brooks' Lunchtime Tour. Ye Olde Windsor Castle, Little Bookham and Glenesk School Spring Fayre.

May 27/June 1. Visit to Aald Hielpen in Hindeloopen.



We first met Aald Hielpen in Krov in 1991, and that was where they invited us to their 80th Anniversary dance festival in Hindeloopen, in Friesland, north-western Holland. A large party of TVMM and wives (disguised as performers) left England in three separate parties but, amazingly, all arrived. Steve Ashcroft, Jim Barclay, John Elkins, Hugh and Hilda Gibson, John Glaister, Chris and Janet Ridley, Fran Smith and Mike Vardy travelled by plane from Heathrow and by train from Amsterdam on May 27. Siward and Jenny Glaister drove

on May 27. Alan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Martin Kiff, Jan Lucas, Graeme Thompson and his daughter Rosie, Phil and Paula Underwood and the goat flew from Heathrow on May 28.

Three other groups had been invited from Belgium, Italy and Poland. We were all lodged with families from Aald Hielpen, who turned out to be folk dancing royalty, having for instance danced privately for the Dutch Royal Family.



After a boat trip on Thursday afternoon and a free morning on Friday we attended a recreation of an original Hindelooper Sea Captain's Wedding and then started dancing, eating ("a nice hot meal") and drinking. There was "a Tilting contest with various carriages" and a ball of nations in the evening. On Saturday we took part in the "Frisian Eleventowns Folkloretrip" and the International Folklore Festival in the evening. Sunday morning was free and there was a surprise in the afternoon – but I can't remember what it was.

We all have different memories of the trip, but John

Elkins remembers:

*The outstanding hospitality of our host families. Mine were Franz and Aukje Hugen, who had several young children, one of whom, a girl of about 11, spoke Hindeloopen, Friese, Dutch, English, French and German.

*Stella and Genever (beer and gin) which the Dutch men were very happy to share with us day and night.

*The traditional (and preserved by conservation



rules) decorated houses in the old town, and the hand-made wooden decorated clogs, spoons, toilet paper holders etc etc which the whole town seemed to be involved in making and marketing.

*The platform sweeper at Leuwarden station, where we changed trains – the only Dutchman in the whole of Holland who didn't (or wouldn't) speak English.

Saturday, June 6. Claygate Folk Day. A day of dancing, song and music based on The Ram Club at The Foley Arms. The day included dancing at The Swan, the Foley and the Hare and

Hounds, a Morris workshop, and a ceilidh at the Village Hall. TVMM also danced at a Summer Fair at the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher.

Monday, June 8. The Anchor, Pyrford Lock. An evening with Jack Straws.

Saturday, June 13. Jack Garwood's South Downs Tour. Ye Olde White Horse, Easebourne; The White Horse, Graffham; Roman Villa, Bignor; Tea at the Garwoods'; The Anchor Bleu, Bosham; The Hare and Hounds, Stoughton.

Friday, June 19. Siward's Garden Party.

Saturday, June 27. Paul Brooks' Tour. To celebrate Paul's first ten years as a Morris dancer TVMM danced at The Barley Mow, Tandridge; The Haycutter, Oxted; Limpsfield Grange girls' school; Tea at Paul's; The Running Horses, Mickleham; The Dukes Head, Brockham.

Saturday, July 4. Steve Ashcroft's Independence Day Tour. The Alexandra, Wimbledon; The William Morris, Merton Abbey Mills; 8th Wimbledon Scout Fete; The Windmill, Wimbledon Common; The Town Wharf, Isleworth.

July 10/12. Hereford Weekend.

Another weekend based around Siward's riverside cottage at Fownhope. An American Morris Group – Pinewoods Morris Men from Boston - joined us for part of the weekend to see how we danced Oddington. They were touring around England, visiting several groups, and were much better dancers than we had expected, in



fact rather better than TVMM on the day. In 1992 Shag Graetz of Pinewood met up with TVMM again at the Thaxted Ring Meeting. He wrote then: *"I seem to recall (from our 1992 visit) that we had a few dances in common. Please give my regards to Fran Smith and to Siward and Jen Glaister, who gave me much more hospitality than I had a right to expect in '92. Martin (Shag) Graetz."*

Saturday, July 18. Martin Kiff Tour.

Saturday, July 25. John Hall Tour. The Ram, Catteshall; The Grantley Arms, Wonersh; Loseley Hall; tea at Tuckey Grove; The New Inn, Send; The Saddlers Arms, Sendmarsh.

Sunday, August 9. Weston Green. TVMM helped the Operation Marney Association celebrate the restoration of Marney's Pond, between The Alma and All Saints Church, Weston Green. The pond is a dew pond with no continuous source of water and its clay basin had been punctured over the years by tree and bush roots. The clay had been re-puddled and the fire brigade had refilled it. TVMM danced, Fran was stung on the tongue by a wasp in his beer and drove himself off at high speed to Kingston Hospital for an antihistamine jab.

August 29/31. Cotswolds. Saturday: The village square, Guiting Power; The Plough, Guiting Power; The Mount, Stanton; The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney. Sunday: The Mill and The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth.

Saturday, Sept 12. Yateley Day of Dance. John Glaister, Malcolm Snowden, Paul Goddard, Mervyn Stanley, John Elkins, Fran Smith, Tim Cawdron, Peter Davis, Steve Ashcroft (?).

Saturday, Sep 26. Harmondsworth Barn Dance, in the Great Barn. John (and Joan) Glaister, Mervyn Stanley, Phil (and Paula) Underwood, Tim (and Sue) Cawdron, Steve (and Valerie) Ashcroft, Tim (and Mary) Sharp, Martin Kiff, John Elkins, Mick Jenkins, Malcolm Snowden and Andy (and Jane) Melville.

Sunday, Oct 4. Lunchtime at The Ram, Cattershall. Arranged by John Hall.

Saturday, October 10. Jim Brooks; *"Squire Francis Smith rings me to say Babs Smith died yesterday, Cyril's wife and founder of T/V side"*

Weekend Oct 10/11. Riverside Barn, Walton.

Friday, Oct 23. One World Day, Woking.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 1992

ATTENDANCE. S.Ashcroft, J.Brooks, T. Cawdron, R Cobb, J.Elkins, J. Glaister, S.Glaister, A.Goddard, P.Goddard, J.Hall, M.Jenkins, M.Jones, P.Jones, E.Morris, R.Paine, R.Peace, T.Sharp, C.Smith, F.Smith, M.Snowden, M.Stanley, G.Thompson, S.Tovey, P.Underwood

MINUTES OF THE 1991 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Bagman read out the minutes of the 1991 AGM. After a brief discussion the minutes were accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT. The Treasurer circulated a statement of Income and Expenditure for 1991/2. The balance at the end of 1990/91 had incorrectly been reported as £880 at the last AGM because of the inclusion of a transaction for 1991/2. The correct figure, as now shown, was £765. Despite there being no hotel jobs in 1991/2 the bank balance had increased from £765 to £994 over the year. It was agreed to renew the side's subscriptions to the Morris Ring, EFDSS, the Elmbridge Twinning Guild and the Woodland Trust, and to make a donation to the Vaughan Williams library.

BAGMANS REPORT. The Bagman reported that since the last AGM there had been 26 events comprising 11 all day tours, 3 lunchtime tours and 12 special events. This had provided a good variety of events to meet all tastes. There had been a very successful visit to Aald Hielpen in Hindeloopen. In general events had been well attended but there had been an unusually high number of cancellations during the year. Two of these had been internal to the club (P.Jones Tour and the Brittany holiday) but two had involved withdrawing from commitments made to other sides (East Surrey and Royal Borough). The Bagman stated his intention to be especially careful about accepting invitations from other sides for 1993. Some "old" members had been observed during the year including Chris Ridley, Dick Chaundy, Angus Stewart and Rick Paine. Although it was difficult to define "active" the active

membership was about 40. The Bagman particularly thanked John Farrant for providing contacts for the travel to Hindeloopen. The reasons for the cancellation of events in 1992 were discussed exhaustively. It was agreed that events should not be cancelled if there was insufficient time to contact members and that "sponsors" should be found to help organise our involvement in other sides' events.

SQUIRES REPORT. The Squire remembered the deceased members of the side.

1992 had been a successful year and he particularly singled out the visit to Hindeloopen. The start of practices had, as usual, tended to drift past 8.00 p.m and the intention to nominate specific men to be responsible for practicing specific traditions had not been followed through thoroughly. Nevertheless practices had been enjoyable, which was perhaps the most important thing. It was his impression that the standard of dancing had improved somewhat because Tuesday practices provided the core of those dancing out. He suggested that standards could be improved further by slightly limiting the number of traditions performed in public, although he did not wish to restrict the very wide repertoire which was performed at practices. He thanked Mervyn Stanley for his efforts to organise a supply of new hats, which were about to be ordered. He had received some comments during the year about slovenliness in mens' kit and he asked that men at least ensure that their kit, even if old, was clean. He thanked the officers of the club and also Jim Brooks, John Glaister and Cyril Smith for their support during the year. In discussion several men urged that the repertoire of dances should not deliberately be reduced and this was generally agreed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The Officers of the Club were re-elected by acclamation i.e. Squire: Fran Smith, Bagman: John Elkins, Treasurer: Robert Peace

OTHER BUSINESS. Phil Underwood suggested that the side should consider subscribing to the American Morris Newsletter. He and Paula had received a preliminary invitation to put on an exhibition of Morris Beasts at the Kinston Heritage Centre (probably in 1994) which he would try to organise to coincide with Hocktide.

Mark Jones suggested that as many old members as possible should be invited to the side's 40th birthday party. The Bagman asked that he should be informed of any names and addresses not on the club address list.

It was suggested that the side should order a stock of bells. The Bagman agreed to follow this up.

John Elkins 22-11-92

Jim Brooks: *"Robert Peace picks me up for our A.G.M. All the officers were returned. Question of wearing black breeches was thrown out. Paul Goddard gave me photos for T/V scrapbook."*

Saturday, Nov 7. Andy Melville's 40th birthday party, Harmondsworth.

Tuesday, Nov 10. Fixtures Meeting.

Saturday, Nov 21. Jessie Rannie Dance.

Saturday, December 5. Claygate. Thames Valley's 40th Birthday Party at the Community Centre.

December 26th Claygate. A change of direction this year. First, The Winning Horse, then The Hare, The Foley, The Swan and the Griffin to finish. Jim Brooks: *“Boxing Day tour of 5 pubs in fine weather. Having only been out of hospital a fortnight I was not up to carrying the sword and cake, Robert Peace did it for me, Kathleen made a cake, so did Elizabeth Peace, Joan Glaister, Jenny Glaister, Mrs. Eddie Morris, John Hall’s wife. I saw the men start off at the Winning Horse, and finish at the Griffin, where a lady from Derbyshire came up to say I gave her the posie last year, which she pressed and still had the note of the meaning of the flowers.”* We took nearly £450.

1993 LOG

The following birthday tribute to Roy Dommett was attached to a TVMM newsletter on April 4 1993.

THE THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN are delighted to send good wishes on his birthday and to pay tribute to him as a leader in the world of the morris dance.

When the Thames Valley Morris Men (TVMM) was founded in 1952, Roy was closely associated with the club's early days, especially with its veterans Jim Brooks and John Glaister. He attended practices and met the club on many morris occasions and Jim Brooks had extra practices in the cellar of his home in Thames Ditton. These practices were useful and great fun and, when Roy was there, tended to be hilarious.

Clive Carey, musician and collector of folk material, witnessed and made notes of the Oddington morris tradition. These notes were lodged in Clare College, Cambridge. Roy had access to the notes and gave them much study. On Sunday mornings during the summer of 1964 in the fine garden of Chris Penton's home in Weybridge, Roy and TVMM put the tradition into performance. Years later, Roy further researched Oddington and altered his views a little. TVMM prefer the early Dommett and stay with it.

Roy arranged and led a series of morris weekends at Halsey Manor. TVMM attended them and they were enjoyable and valuable. Among other dances Roy showed us "The Buffon" from the Arbeau's Orchestography of 1529. Roy also showed us a comic Jig which he called "Two Men met on a Mountain". Some years later TVMM hosted a party of 20 Swedish folk dancers on a tour of the Cotswolds. In their repertory, the Swedes had the same double jig but they called it "The Ox Dance". Two TVMM learned it and for a time it went into the TVMM programme.

Roy helped Lionel Bacon on the preparation of the Morris Book. Roy's influence in the morris is very great and very valuable. The Thames Valley Morris Men appreciate keenly Roy's teaching as well as his friendship.

C. D. Smith

Friday, April 23. St George's Day at the City Arms. Jim Barclay, Paul Brooks, John Elkins, John Glaister, Jan Lucas, Tim Sharp, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Robert Peace, Edward Morris.

Saturday, April 24. Hocktide. A change of plan this year. After dancing at the Bishop Out of Residence, Kingston Parish Church, the Market Place, Clarence Street, to Claygate for tea at the old school, the Foley, and the Ale at the Old School. GUM/Ewell. **Jim Brooks:** *"Eddie Morris takes me to Kingston for our Hock Tide day of dance in aid of K.O.T. parish church. We dance at the Bishop Out of Residence down by the river before lunch, then after lunch at the church, in the market place outside of Woolworth's, then in the pedestrian precinct outside of Bentalls store, I carry the Cake and Sword. In the evening in Claygate Youth Club for our Ale, I supply shallots and Red Cabbage pickles. Grand Union m/m and Ewell St.Marys m/m were our guests."*

Monday, May 3. Ottershaw Village May Fayre/Chertsey Meads May Fayre

Friday, May 7. Spring Fling.

Saturday, May 8. Broadwood Day of Dance. Jim Barclay, Dave Dearsley, John Glaister, Paul Goddard, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, Martin Kiff?, Graeme Thompson?, Steve Tovey?

Friday, May 14. Ladies Pleasure - River trip from Walton Bridge. A party of about 30 spent four hours from 7.30p.m. on the good ship Walton Monarch. Those on board were (probably) Steve Ashcroft (4), Jim Barclay, Paul Brooks (2+), Tim Cawdron (2), Hugh Gibson (2), John Glaister (2), Paul Goddard (2), Mick Jenkins (2+2), Jan Lucas (2), Edward Morris (7!), Robert Peace (2), Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Graeme Thompson (2+20). The above included Valerie Ashcroft, Sue Cawdron, Elizabeth Peace, Mary Sharp, Fay Jenkins, Cheryl Whittington, Pauline Davies, Hilda Gibson, Joan Glaister, Jenny Glaister, Angela Coombs, Maggie Lawrance et al, who signed a card thanking Thames Valley for a lovely river trip – “you pleased us well”. At the AGM Squire Fran noted: “*Two otherwise successful activities, the Hocktide Ale and the River Trip, had been marked by low attendance from Thames Valley*”.

Sunday, May 16. Lunchtime at The Griffin, Claygate.

Saturday, May 22. John Hall Tour. The Rubbing Horse, Epsom Downs; The Spring Hotel, Ewell Village; Danetree Middle School Fete, West Ewell; Tea at Graeme’s; The Cricketers, Horsell Common; The Castle Grove, Chobham.

Weekend, June 3-5. Visit of Aald Hielpen. We invited Aald Hielpen to join us in England after our wonderful visit to Hindeloopen in 1992. Their party arrived from Holland at Liverpool Street on Thursday June 3rd. John Elkins and Fran Smith kept them busy in London during the day and delivered them to their host families at West Byfleet and Surbiton stations that evening. Nothing organised on Thursday evening – we expected our guests to be shattered. On Friday the visitors assembled in the Diana Fountain car park in Bushy Park at 11.00 a.m. for a tour of Hampton Court Palace and a picnic lunch. John E, Fran, Hugh and Edward (with a minibus) provided guidance and ferrying. In the evening Aald Hielpen danced at The Spring Fling in Pyrford and were offered the chance to join in the stately, and rather slow country dancing. Not surprisingly the Dutch men leapt at the chance to escape and visit an English pub – we took them to The Seven Stars. Saturday was taken up with the Claygate Folk Day, including a disappointing procession from Claygate Station to the Foley. However, TVMM, Aald Hielpen, Jack Straws, Countryside, and Datchet strutted their stuff at The Swan, The Foley and the Hare and Hounds followed by a buffet lunch, and a general get together. In the evening Aald Hielpen were supposed to dance at the ceilidh at 7.15 and at 8.15, but something must have gone wrong – I forget what – because I wrote in the newsletter: “*A special thank you, even a sick parrot award, to Brian Ravenhill,*



for organising the Saturday evening at the Claygate Folk Day so badly that some of the senior members of TVMM were almost driven to fisticuffs amongst themselves. But at least the Folk Day was the pretext (?), catalyst (?), reason (?) for asking Aald Hielpen here in the first place, so we should be grateful for that. He, the Ravenhill, also prompted me to learn some very rude Dutch phrases in case he asks us to dance at his Folk Day next year. Surprisingly they sound very similar in English and Dutch."



Our Dutch guests left from Liverpool Street Station early on Sunday morning, after a busy weekend and, by all accounts, plenty of booze was shifted. We heard subsequently from Jan Bosje that Aald Hielpen arrived at

Hoek van Holland at 7.00 p.m. to find that one of their cars was missing from the car park. "We only found some glass and thought he was stolen. After we visited the Police-station we found out, that they brought him in their garage, while one of the door windows was broken. Geert (it was his car) was only missing his car-papers. So two hours later we could leave Hoek v.H. and arrived at 24.00 at home. Monday-evening we were practicing and everybody was talking about the fine trip we had.

Therefore we will thank you for the beautiful weekend we had with you. We enjoyed our visit and renewed our friendship with you. Thanks for everything and we looking forward to see you again in Krov.



One insight gained from putting up a Dutch couple was how long it took (about an hour) for the ladies to get dressed in their spectacular costumes.

The hosts and their guests were:

Tim Cawdron - Rudy/Bertus Stallmann; John Glaister-Akkie/Geert Veenstra; Siward Glaister- Feikje van der Wal/ Andries Blom/Luky van der Wal/Ypie Hiemstra; Mick Jenkins - Rooske/Gatze Fekkes; Jan Lucas-Anne Elgersma/Jan Otter/Klaas van der Werk; Fran Smith- Toos/Jan van den Broek; Graeme Thompson-Grietje Beimin/Carolien Hack/Coby

Laanstra; Phil Underwood - Atty/Hans Schlijffelen; Edward Morris- Sietske Ykema/Jan Bosje/Sia/Bernard Visser; John Elkins- Aukje/Frans Huguen; Robin Cobb-Hennie/Jan van der Goot.

There is a video of the visit at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJJKNoiiDTo>.

Wednesday, June 9. The Rose and Olive Branch, Virginia Water, with Countryside.

Saturday, June 12. Ewell Day of Dance. Jim Barclay, Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, Paul Goddard, Mick Jenkins, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley and possibly Steve Ashcroft, Martin Kiff, Graeme Thompson.

Sunday, June 13. Little Bookham/Effingham. Lunchtime at The Winchester Castle, and at the Effingham Village Day.

Friday, June 18. Siward's Garden Party.

Saturday, June 19. All Saints, Weston. The Weston Wings Carnival. From the organisers: *"We know from the many comments we have received that your display was much appreciated. It seemed particularly appropriate in the setting of the old pub (The Alma), the Church and the pond, a real bit of old England."*

Weekend, June 26/27. Digger's weekend around Exton.

Tuesday, June 29. The Ship, Ripley.

July 1/5 KROV. Same basic deal as in 1991. Unctuous letter from the Bagman, followed by an invitation to the 40th Internationales Trachtentreffen der Mosel in Krov, John the Coach, pickups in Kingston and at Siward's, Ramsgate – Dunkerque. Hugh and Hilda Gibson had booked a room and planned to come by car. [Did they?]

Some opted for B&B again - Siward/Jennv Glaister, Martin Kiff/Dorrit. Phil/Paula Underwood, Chis/Janet Ridlev, John/Gill Baker (coach driver). The majority chose the school room floor: Jim Barclay, Pauline Davies, Peter Davis, Dave Dearsley, John/Kate Elkins, John Glaister, Jamie Glaister, Allan Goddard, Paul Goddard, John Hall, Mick/Lewis Jenkins, Peter Jones, Jill Jones, Jan Lucas, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Mike Vardy.

The Tourist Office arranged for us to dance at The Wine Hall (Friday evening); The old people's home, The Wine Hall again, the Floating Stage (Saturday); The procession and the Floating Stage again (Sunday). We also had a wine tasting at the cool Trossen keller on Saturday in the heat of the day and appeared outside the Rathaus for a ceremonial exchange of gifts with the Mayor. The tourist office wrote: *"It would be very much appreciated, if you could also perform elsewhere in the village, e.g. in front of the tourist office, Rathaus or somewhere else in Krov."* My recollection is that in part payment for the meal tickets and free wine, we danced and drank at every bar in town (probably). Maybe for this reason detailed recollections of the weekend are not available

Saturday, July 10. Harmondsworth and Bushy Park. Andy's lunch and afternoon walking tour of Harmondsworth, taking in The Five Bells, The Crown, The Tythe Barn (plus visit to a craft fair), The Flower Festival in the church, Tea at Andy and Jane's. TVMM collected £115 for the church roof fund. In the evening we danced at a Summer Party organised by the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks in the Storeyard at Bushy Park. Beer, barbecue and £50

were handed over to TVMM. In her thankyou letter, the Chaiman of the Friends commented: *“I sympathise with your predicament with having that wretched goat attached to you. I know in these conservation-minded days we must overcome our immediate desire to shoot the beast but I strongly advise you to donate him to Chessington Zoo and replace him with a budgerigar.”*

Saturday lunchtime, July 11. Beer Festival at The Swan, Claygate.

Monday July 12. The Grosvenor Hotel. Another Round Britain Dinner, paying £250. Dave Dearsley, John Farrant, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Martin Kiff, Fran Smith +??????? performed during the Beef course. The other performers were the Scots Guards Dance Band, a Welsh choir (leek tarts), Scottish dancers (clear soup), and an Irish harpist (Irish Mist).

July 16/18. Magog Christmas Weekend. Jim Barclay, John Glaister, Martin Kiff, Siward Glaister, Allan Goddard, Edward Morris, Tim Sharp and Fran Smith travelled “on Santa's sleigh, looking remarkably like a 53-seater coach” to various locations in the Sussex countryside. On Saturday evening each side was asked to "do a turn" of some sort. A King & Barnes bar was provided for the evening.

Saturday, July 24. Martin’s fourth Brakspears tour. The Stag and Huntsman, Hambleden; Luxters Farm, Hambleden; The Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common; The Bull and Butcher, Turville.

August, 4/11. Morris Holiday Bordeaux. Fran Smith writes: *“Some bank customers of mine when I worked for the Midland Bank in Chiswick, Harry and Esme Solnick, owned a holiday home in Southern France between Duras and Marmande, Bordeaux country. TVMM decided to have a week’s camping holiday in Duras using the public camping site which was in the grounds and within the walls of Duras castle. Wonderful location with stunning views. We all drove down to France, the party consisting of me as Squire together with John and Joan Glaister, Angela Coombs, Jenny and Siward Glaister, Jim Barclay, Cheryl Whittington and Pauline Davies, Phil Underwood, Martin and Dorrit (who travelled separately), and I think Mick Jenkins, Paul Goddard and Jill Jones. There were maybe just a few more but we just had enough men for a side. [Peter Jones is in the photo.](#)”*



We had an excellent time, hot weather throughout, dancing around the area and were well received by the French. We also had a super party at the Solnick's holiday home, with lots of food and drink and also the benefit of their swimming pool. Angela caused a sensation gathering up plums using the bottom part of her sarong as a basket but the trouble was she was not wearing knickers! This did not trouble her in any way but lots of giggles elsewhere.

A lesson for present and future Squires in that some of the excursions were not made known to all of our group meaning some missed out and were a little hurt. I felt guilty about it and after that we had a group meeting each morning to discuss and agree the day's plans.

A truly memorable TVMM holiday."

Aug 28/30. Cotswolds weekend. Saturday: The Black Horse, Naunton; The Farmers Arms, Guiting Power; The Mount, Stanton; The Green Dragon, Cobberley; Dam Busting at The Kings Head. Sunday: The Mill and The Kings Head, Withington; The Roman Villa, Withington; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth (reached by some through the abandoned railway tunnel between Withington and Chedworth).

September 3/5 weekend.

Winchester Ring Meeting. 10 men camped at Stockbridge school. Our show dances were Old Frog Hop, Oddington and Constant Billy, Sherborne. Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Fran Smith, Steve Tovey and Phil Underwood were there. No record of which tour we took.



Saturday, Sep 11. Jack Straws Day of Dance. Details for the tour were

supplied in a letter starting: "*Dear Mr Elkins (in white knickers)*", from Pauline Davies. It is believed that this is a reference to an incident in a car park on one of Martin Kiff's tours, where the said Mr. E. surprised the said Miss D changing into dancing kit not quite shielded by her car. [Must consult the TVMM lawyer about the statute of limitations.] The Crown, Badshot Lea; The Shepherd & Flock, in the middle of a large roundabout on the edge of Farnham; Lion & Lamb Courtyard, Farnham; tea party at Frensham Ponds; The Spotted Cow, Lower Bourne; The Kiln Badshot lea for food and ceilidh.

Sunday, Sep 26. Apprentice Tour. Edward took us to The Pilgrim, Dorking; The Running Horses, Mickleham; Bockets Farm, Fetcham.

Weekend, October 2. Housewarming party for the Jones family at Twitchen Farm, Challacombe.

Friday, Oct 22. One World Day.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2ND 1993

ATTENDANCE J. Barclay, J.Brooks, P.Brooks, T.Cawdron, R.Cobb, J.Elkins, Jamie Glaister, John Glaister, S.Glaister, J.Hall, M.Jenkins, M.Kiff, J.Lucas, E.Morris, R.Peace, T.Sharp, C.Smith, F.Smith, M.Snowden, M.Stanley, J.Stanley-Rhodes, G.Thompson, P.Underwood.

THAMES VALLEY ROLL OF HONOUR The President reminded the meeting of past members who were now deceased; - Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussem, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Phil Sylvester, Gordon Smith, Bill Tofts.

MINUTES OF THE 1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The minutes of the L992 AGM had been circulated by the Bagman and were taken as read.

TREASURERS REPORT The Treasurer circulated a statement of Income and Expenditure for 1992/3. Despite large expenditures on the 40th Anniversary Party, the Ladies Pleasure Boat Trip and the visit of Aald Hielpen the current balance had only fallen during the year from £993 to £965. The visit to Krov and attendance at the Winchester Ring Meeting and other sides' days of dance had been largely self-financed. After discussion it was agreed that subsequent Accounts should show details of all monies handled by the club even where cash was collected and immediately donated to charity. It was agreed to renew the side's subscriptions to the Morris Ring, EFDSS, the Elmbridge Twinning Guild and the Woodland Trust, and to make a donation to the Vaughan Williams library.

BAGMANS REPORT The Bagman reported that since the last AGM there had been about 30 events comprising (by his own definition, which was debated); 8 Traditional tours, (Boxing day, Ottershaw Fair, John Hall, Mick Jenkins, Digger, Andrew Melville, Martin Kiff, Cotswolds; 5 Days of Dance, Broadwood, Ewell, Magog, Winchester Ring, Jack Straws; 6 special events, TVMM 40th birthday, Hocktide/Ale, River Trip, Visit of Aald Hielpen, Krov, Morris Holiday in France; 10 other, Pyrford Christmas party, St. George's Day, Spring Fling, Weston Green Carnival, The Ship @ Ripley, Bushey Park, One World Day, the Grosvenor Hotel and Sunday lunchtimes at the Griffin and the Swan.

He particularly thanked members for providing accommodation and other support for the visit of Aald Hielpen. Although the year had been very busy the only organisational disaster had been caused by the Bagman getting the date of an engagement at Imber Court wrong. Apart from that men had been willing to turn out in enough numbers for virtually all events.

The issue of traditional tours was debated, the feeling being that there should be more of them, including Sunday lunchtime events, and that there should be more emphasis on dancing in our traditional patch rather than in more exotic parts of the UK. The Bagman said that he had always tried, and would continue, to give preference to tours proposed by members, provided that they were suggested early enough in the year. It was suggested that the side should be more commercial in its arrangements for hotel bookings and insist on better catering arrangements and higher fees. A different agency could perhaps be approached. The Bagman noted that the side did not have a very strong bargaining position and that bookings were already sparse but agreed to get tougher.

SQUIRES REPORT The squire said that 1993 had been another good and enjoyable year for the side and drew attention particularly to the visit of Aald Hielpen, the trips to Krov and to France for the Morris holiday. The traditional camping field at Withington had now been sold and there was therefore some doubt about exact arrangements for future Cotswolds tours

although they would, of course, continue. He also noted that two otherwise successful activities, the Hocktide Ale and the River Trip, had been marked by low attendance from Thames Valley.

He thought that Thames Valley had been entertaining in 1993 but that the standard of dance was falling. This was caused in part by the traditional problem that many of those dancing out did not attend practice and keep up to date with the current repertoire. Practices had however been well attended throughout the year and a wide variety of dances and jigs had been attempted.

He thanked the officers of the club and also Jim Brooks, John Glaister and Cyril Smith for their support during the year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The Officers of the Club were re-elected by acclamation i.e Squire: Fran Smith; Bagman: John Elkins; Treasurer: Robert Peace

In addition it was decided to elect a Ragman, and Edward Morris was elected.

KIT The President had brought to the meeting some samples of waistcoats and other articles which had been made by Jenny Jones, who had also provided written notes and cost estimates. There was a discussion about the provision of kit and it was agreed that 10 sets of bell pads and baldricks should be ordered from Jenny. Her expenses to date, £150 would be reimbursed. Members would be free, as in the past, to make their own arrangements about waistcoats. Apprentices and any members wanting replacement kit would be asked to make a reasonable contribution towards costs. Following the appointment of a Ragman it was left that he should be responsible for co-ordinating all arrangements for the purchase and stocking of material and for ordering kit to be made on behalf of the club.

OTHER BUSINESS Jim Brooks asked for offers of cakes for Boxing Day and was promised enough to stock a cakeshop.

It was agreed that some effort should be put into publicising the side, suggestions being to contact Radio Surrey, to produce a handbill, and to get posters into libraries. The Bagman agreed to pursue all these ideas.

G.Thompson agreed to provide some new posters.

John Elkins, Bagman, 2 1-11-93

Saturday, Dec 11. Servispak Ltd Christmas Party at the Swan Diplomat Hotel, Streatley on Thames.

Monday, December 27. Boxing Day, Claygate. The Swan, The Foley, The Hare and Hounds, The Winning Horse, The Griffin.

1994 LOG

Sunday, January 30. Cyril's 90th birthday at The Foley. A large cast of TVMM and other friends and relatives of Cyril assembled at The Foley for an informal lunchtime party. The Foley Hall was crammed, but there was enough room for Morris dancing, speeches, eating, drinking and reminiscing. Many photos of the day are in the TVMM archives, including some of Cyril planting a tree in the Foley garden.



1 Dick Chaundy	9 Mark Jones	17 Andy Melville	25 Jonathan Brooks
2 Jon Stanley	10 Jim Brooks	18 Cyril Smith	26 Angus Fraser
3 Mick Jenkins	11 Robert Peace	19 Graeme Thomson	27 Paul Brooks
4 Godwin Ashcroft	12 Tim Sharp	20 Jan Lucas	28 Lewis Jenknis
5 John Walsh	13 John Elkins	21 Steve Ashcroft	29 Phil Underwood
6 Tim Cawdron	14 John Hall	22 John Glaister	30 Edward Morris
7 Jim Barclay	15 Martin Kiff	23 Peter Davies	
8 Chris Ridley	16 Peter Jones	24 Robin Cobb	

Apologies for absence were received from Hugh Gibson; Ron Duncombe, who wrote: *"I shall not be able to attend my friend Cyril's 90th as much as I would like to do so. Please may I trouble you to do me a favour? With the enclosed cheque for £10 will you please purchase a bottle of Glenfiddich Malt Whisky (the price here is £9.95) and present it to Cyril with my compliments on Jan 30th"; Alan Dean: "Could I prevail on you – goodness, there's posh – to pass enclosed card on to the old bugger. Can't remember his address or much else nowadays". Chris Ridley came and wrote in advance: "Please make sure the promised buffet*



is adequate as I shall be pretty peckish having driven up from Cornwall that day”.



Cyril’s daughter Jenny wrote, after the event: *“Father and I thank you all so much for the splendid birthday party! The food was marvellous & the company even better! The mixture of chatting, eating, dancing & tree planting was just right and we did appreciate all your planning and work. Best regards to everyone - & looking forward to the next one! Jenny.”*

Friday, March 25. Bagman’s Night Out at The Vecchia Roma. Paul and Sandy Brooks, Tim Cawdron, John and Linda Elkins, John Hare, Edward and Maureen Morris, Robert and Elizabeth Peace, Tim and Mary Sharp, Cyril Smith, Mervyn and Carol Stanley, John and Linda Walsh, Cheryl Whittington.

Saturday, April 16. Hocktide. GUM and Yateley joined TVMM for a tour of Kingston. The Bishop Out of Residence, The Parish Church, Market place, Clarence Street, The Wych Elm, and then a buffet meal and a polypin of London Pride at the Swinnerton Hall – plus dancing.

Saturday April 23, St.George’s Day at the City Arms, Surbiton. Yet again we were paid to have a free meal, drink beer and dance for the sparse number of punters, who we outnumbered. Phil was warned by the Irish landlord at one point not to sing any more “rebel songs”.

Sunday, May 1. Edward and Jon’s Lunchtime Tour. The Swan, Walton; The Anchor and the Kings Arms, Church Square, Shepperton; Thames Court Hotel, Shepperton Lock. (Note from Edward and Jon: We will be dancing at dawn on Epsom Downs with Ewell Men and guests. This is usually followed by a pub breakfast stop.)

Saturday, May 7. Broadwood Day of Dance.

Sunday May 15. Dorking. Jon Stanley organised a visit to the Stepping Stones, Box Hill and St.Martin’s School, Dorking May Fayre.

Monday, May 16, “Round Britain Dinner” at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane. We dance for hire for an American company. Afterwards we retired with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir to the Audley Arms where John Elkins, standing reflectively in the gents, glanced down at his small neighbour, and realised that it was Tom Jones. He didn’t ask for Tom’s autograph.

Sunday, May 22. Lunchtime at The Griffin, Claygate.

Wednesday, May 25. The Row Barge, Woking with Pilgrim.

Weekend, June 4/5. Thaxted Ring Meeting. Ten members of Thames Valley joined in on the Saturday and Sunday activities. We danced on Saturday at Duton Hill, Little Dunmow, Little Easton, Mill End Green, Monk Street and in the mass display at The Guildhall in Thaxted.

Monday, June 6. The Saddlers, Sendmarsh, with Jack Straws.



Saturday, June 11. Martin's Brakspeare Revisited Tour. The Cherry Tree, Stoke Row; the Black Horse, Checkendon; Greys Court for tea; the King William, Hailey.

Saturday June 18. Kingston Folk Day/Harmondsworth. TVMM (and Countryside) joined in the EFDSS Kingston/Thames Valley District Folk Day by dancing two spots in Clarence Street, Kingston by 12.00 a.m. TVMM were Pete Davies, Martin Kiff, Tim Cawdron, John Glaister, John Elkins,

Jon Stanley, Robert Peace. We then somehow (by missing a lunchtime session at the Ram) got to Harmondsworth in time to join up with Andy Melville at the Harmondsworth Primary School Fete at 1.00 p.m. We then proceeded to the Tythe Barn, tea at Andy and Jane's and the Harmondsworth pubs in the evening. The PTA wrote to Jayne(!) Melville asking her to thank us. Jane added: *"Being somewhat occupied myself with a long queue of "little darlings" awaiting the wonders of my paint brush – yes I was persuaded, yet again, to do the Face paints", - I didn't see you perform, but I know with the comments made you all did very well. Still Thames Valley are well known in the village of Harmondsworth these days. Thank you once again, and himself (Andy) who is now back in Aberdeen says he appreciated the effort made by you all."*

Friday, June 24. Siward's Garden Party.

Saturday, June 25. John Farrant's Tour. The Rose and Crown, Thorpe Green; Egham Town Centre; The Sun, Englefield Green; The Savill Gardens, Windsor Park; Tea with John and Maggie at Majaskle Cottage; The Rose and Olive, Virginia Water.

Sunday, June 26. Agency do at Battersea. Did this happen???

Saturday, July 2. Paul Brooks' Tour. The Douglas Haigh, Effingham; The St. Lawrence School Fair; the Brooks house at Little Bookham for tea; The Royal Oak, Brockham Green, The Seven Stars, Leigh.

Saturday, July 9. Jack & Robert's Tour. We started by parking in the Bishop's Palace at Chichester Cathedral, thanks to John Hare's Ecclesiastical connection. Dancing at the Cathedral; The Royal Oak, East Lavant; The Old Barn, East Wittering; The Royal Oak, Hooksway and The Fox Goes Free, Charlton. Tea at Jack's place in Chichester.

Wednesday, July 15. The Rose and Olive Branch, Virginia Water with Countryside.

Saturday July 14. Dave Dearsley's Tour. The Blue Bell, Dockenfield; The Cherry Tree, Rowledge; The Hare and Hounds, Rowledge; The Bourne Fete, Bourne Green; The Bat and Ball, The Bourne. Tea with Dave and Cathy.

Sunday July 24. The Swan, Claygate Beerfest.

Saturday July 29 – August 7. Morris Exmoor holiday. Based around Jones's Place at Twitchen Farm, Challacombe, Digger and Pam's Exton House Hotel and "a special camping

field". Extensive dancing at Simonsbath, Lynton, Lynmouth, The Hunters Inn at Heddon Valley and The Fox and Goose at Parracombe – and that was just Monday. Tuesday was a railway day, travelling from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead by way of Watchet and back on the West Somerset Steam Railway with dancing along the way. Wednesday, The Station Hotel, Blackmoor Gate, Woolacombe Sands, a walking tour of Appledore with Muddiford and Milltown M.M., finishing at Seagate. Thursday was a rest day ready for a full Friday at The Black Venus, Challacombe; Brendon; The Doone Valley, Malmsmead; Exford and a Feast at Twitchen Farm. Saturday was free until a Heart Foundation Thrash at Twitchen Farm with John Glaister calling and a pick-up band playing.

Chris Ridley wrote: *"Dear Fran, We had a lovely couple of days on Exmoor with you all and only wished we could have stayed on for the rest of the week. I much enjoy watching TVMM dance; it is so obviously a team performance, with great attention to being true to the tradition, whichever one it is. As for apres-Morris, every side finds its own style and ours in Trigg is very different to yours; hope our own little interpolations were not too jarring.*

It was a great surprise to be awarded part of the holiday "bag" and I have no intention of accepting it, big or small. Please just add it to TVMM funds. We feel in your debt for your open welcome.

Do tell the lads to bring kit if they ever come to Cornwall. We dance three traditions. While they may not know Stanton Harcourt, they will certainly be able to join us in Fieldtown and Bracknell [Bucknell?]. Very best wishes to you and everyone. Christopher & Janet Ridley."

Saturday August 13. Phil's Tour. The Half Moon, Windlesham; The Hen and Chickens, Bisley; The Plough, Horsell; High tea at the Underwoods' *"with swimming in the pool if it's fine"*; The Red Lion, Chobham; The Four Horseshoes, Chobham; The Castle Grove, Chobham.

August 27/28. Cotswolds Weekend, Withington. There was an issue about the use of the field, as Blob explained, by fax. *"The field next to the Kings Head has changed hands and TVMM have permission from the new owners to camp there for 1994. For this arrangement to continue however we need to pay particular attention to countryside etiquette. A Mare and two ponies currently enjoy the run of the main field and adjacent paddock at the top. This is in fact, only because the gate between the two is not functioning. We expect the situation to be remedied by the time we arrive, either by a new gate or some temporary lash-up. The animals are placid but naturally curious and if we are not careful could damage themselves and/or our gear. We must ensure therefore, that they are safely in the top paddock. First arrivals need, to check by contacting the people at "The Close, which is a house to be found directly opposite the bottom of the lane. If in doubt check with Collie at the Kings Head. The gate from the lane is also current in poor order and we are advised to leave it open to avoid further damage. Obviously this can only be possible once the first arrivals have checked as above. We cannot say how effective the barrier between the field and paddock will be, so it will be necessary to remind children (and Andy)*



not to climb on or play with, fences etc. Finally, the last to leave please ensure that the field is left as we found it.”

Despite the above, a full complement of campers braved the country etiquette from Friday evening onwards.

Dave Dearsley wrote: *“Blob has performed services above and beyond the call of duty to secure the campsite and we hope his permanent limp is covered by the insurance.”*



The itinerary crafted by Dave for Saturday comprised The Royal Oak at Painswick, The Butchers Arms, Sheepscombe; The Black Horse, Cranham; The Kings Head field and pub, and finally The Green Dragon, Cowley; before the evening session at the KH. Sunday, in Dave’s words, was *“Same old tour; pretty boring really,”* i.e. procession from the Kings Head to The Mill; dancing at The Mill and then back at The Kings Head; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; and The Seven Tuns,

Chedworth in the evening. Not boring, Dave, but traditional.

After all that arranging Dave also wrote: *“Dambusting to be arranged, but the first year’s champion, and last year’s i.e. me, can’t be there I’m afraid, so I’ll ask Emma, another ex-champ to perform the customary lap of honour, light the eternal flame etc.”*

Saturday Sep 3. JackStraws Day of Dance. The Kiln Centre, Badshot Lea; The Plume of Feathers and The Hampshire Arms, Crondall; The Hen and Chicken, “on the A31”; the Rural Life Centre, Runfold; the Hogs Back Brewery.

Saturday Sep 17. Yateley Day of Dance. Billed as a weekend, but TVMM just stayed for Saturday, when John Elkins, Peter Jones, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Jon Stanley, John Walsh and John Farrant turned out with Woodside, Moulton and Ellington around the “Basingstoke Binge” at The Bury, Oldham; Basingstoke Market; The Swan, Sherborne St.John; and The Vine; then tea, massed dancing and Ale at Yateley Manor School. In their programme Yateley wrote: *“A number of founder members of Yateley Morris were formerly Thames Valley men and the close relationship between the sides has grown over the years. Beware the Goat! You have been warned!”*

Saturday Sep 23-26. Rueil-Malmaison. Thames Valley and the Oatlands Park Pipe Band represented Elmbridge at the Twinning Exhibition, travelling by Elmbridge Coach from the Civic Centre in Esher by way of the Ramsgate/Dunkirk ferry. 12 places were allocated with French host families. Groups from Germany Austria, Denmark and Russia were there, as well as Fran Smith, John Elkins, Mick Jenkins, Lewis Jenkins, Robin Cobb, Edward Morris, Jon Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Grahame Wood (Yateley MM) and Mike Vardy.

We travelled by coach with the Twinning Guild to the Salon du Terroir at Rueil. We stayed as usual with local families. Extract from the Newsletter: *“RUEIL-MALMAISON. A DISCLAIMER. I (John Elkins) just want it to be clear that I did not ask to share a bed with Fran in Paris. It just sort of happened. Or so I thought until the first morning. He then*

announced with a smile on his face that he had now completed his collection of Morris Men. I really didn't know where to put my stick. I hope that's cleared the air - something we had to do each morning, I can tell you, what with all that Shampoo, Cassis, Burgundy and Eau de Vie. I think I also drank a soupcon of Pastis and Vodka on the Saturday night at the feast - Kate remembers more about that than I do. From which you will conclude that I certainly, and everyone else, I hope, had a great time twinning in Rueil. Everyone else, by the way, was Fran, Siward/Jenny, Martin, John/Joan, Edward, Phil/Paula, Kate, Jill and Robin. I put Robin last because I think he was there, but there are so many bars in Rueil that it was hard to be sure. My first sight of Edward's hostess prompted me to start a glamorous landlady competition and declare her the winner on the spot. Unfortunately her English was so good that she probably understood what I was saying, but she just carried on smiling in that wonderful way. Well done Edward. I also vaguely recall something to do with "Dip'n Suck". Perhaps Jenny can refresh my memory about that? The horse (Martin) and the goat (Phil) went down a bomb with the French children. Unfortunately Phil hasn't yet learned to play the violin and the goat simultaneously, but I expect he's working on it. He and I did demonstrate an English game to some French children and we expect "Les Conkers" (previously unknown in France?) to be up there with the Tour de France in the popularity stakes in a few years."

The Morris Mens' contribution to the success of the event was very much appreciated by the Twinning Guild and the Morris Dancing was, as always, greatly enjoyed by those at the Festival.

Saturday: 2.00 Promenade dans Paris; 17.30 Plantation d'arbres des villes jumelles; 18.30 Cocktail Salle Richelieu and Concert de l'orchestre des jeunes d'ile de France Weber/Dvorak/Brahms/ Beethoven/ Tchaikovsky/ Franck/Hamlisch (Chorus Line); 20.30 Soiree a l'Atrium. As I recall, we had to stand for the concert without benefit of food or drink. Sunday: Fete de l'Enfance.

Extract from letter from John Elkins to Beverley Greenstein/Fred Awcock at the Twinning Guild.

"Thankyou Beverley for making the arrangements for the Rueil trip and thankyou both for your compliments about our performance in Rueil. We all had a wonderful time. Please tell the Rueil organisers that we were all to a man (and woman) bowled over by the hospitality and friendliness of our hosts and the rest of the twinning organisation. We all thoroughly enjoyed the Fete d'Enfance. Oh yes, and we also learned to cope with the tide of Beer / Pastis / Champagne / Bordeaux /Eau de Vie etc etc. It was a very friendly weekend and we hope we did our bit for the Entente Cordiale. The one thing I was surprised about was that the French children didn't seem to know about Conkers. We left a couple of sets behind and I suggest that you include Conkers in future Twinning activities. We would be glad to provide a team and coaching support."

Paul Vanson, the chairman of the Elmbridge Guild, and an old friend of Cyril Smith's subsequently wrote: *"Arising from the recent Twinning Visit, the Guild has been in discussions with the Ferry Company concerning the possibility of a partial refund in view of the apparently poor standard of the ferry on the outward crossing to France. I am pleased to inform you that as a result, a partial refund has been obtained which equates to £5.90 per traveller which in the case of the Thames Valley Morris Men is a total of £76.70. (looks like 13 travellers) As you will know from your recent telephone conversation with Beverley*

Greenstein, a member of the Oatlands Park Pipe Band was taken ill during the Visit which necessitated him spending a short spell in Hospital. As a result of this, he incurred out of pocket expenses due to the necessity for him and a companion to fly home from France. In view of these circumstances, the Twinning Committee felt the Morris Men might like to consider donating all or part of their proportion of the ferry refund to the Pipe Band member as a good will gesture. I have written similarly to all the other travellers participating on the Visit."

We agreed with this, having seen the young Oatlands piper frothing at the mouth (literally) on the steps of the Mairie.

Saturday Oct 1. Dorking. John Glaister, with a few TVMM helpers (John Elkins and Malcolm Snowden?) ran a Morris workshop for the Kingston/Thames Valley District of the EFDSS at the Dorking Halls.

Friday, October 7. We (John Glaister, Steve Tovey, Siward Glaister, John Elkins, Malcolm Snowden, Jan Lucas, Steve Ashcroft) danced for money at an International Amateur Radio Convention at the ICL training centre Runnymede.

Saturday, October 15. Byfleet Day Centre. TVMM performed at "A Barn Dance for Arthur Rannie".

Friday, October 28. One World Day, Woking.

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15th 1994

Present: Godwin Ashcroft, Jim Barclay, Jim Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Farrant, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Alan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Martin Kiff, Mick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Jan Lucas, Edward Morris, Robert Peace, Cyril Smith, Fran Smith, Malcom Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Jon Stanley-Rhodes, Steve Tovey, John Walsh.

An Apology for Absence was received from Steve Ashcroft.

Thames Valley Roll of Honour. The Squire reminded the meeting of former members of the side who were now deceased - Peter Dashwood, Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussem, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Phil Sylvester, Gordon Smith, Bill Tofts.

Minutes of the 1993 AGM. The minutes had been circulated by the Bagman and were taken as read.

Treasurers Report. The Treasurer circulated a Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1993. As expected, expenditure of nearly £1,200 on kit had not all been recovered during the year. Nevertheless, total income had just exceeded total expenditure and the current balance had increased to £982.

It was agreed that the Treasurer should in future provide an estimate of the value of stock held by the side.

Ragman's Report. A copy of the Ragman's report is attached. (Not!)

Bagman's Report. The Bagman said that the side had held 18 "traditional" tours and events during the year but had only danced for hire 3 times. One commitment had been broken - to the Jack Straws Day of dance - but apart from that there had generally been sufficient enthusiasm, and a sufficiently varied programme of events, to see the side through the year.

The side had danced with GUM, Yateley, Pilgrim, Jack Straws, Ewell and Countryside, had appeared at the Broadwood and Yateley Days of Dance, and the Thaxted Ring Meeting and had turned out twice for EFDSS functions. This indicated that the side was a little less xenophobic than had been the case in some past years.

There had been four major special events - Cyril Smith's 90th birthday party, the Bagman's Night Out, the Morris Holiday in Dorset and the Twinning Weekend in Rueil-Malmaison. All four events had been most successful.

The Bagman said that he intended to build on the renewed contracts with the Elmbridge Twinning Guild and asked if anyone was interested in keeping in touch with the local EFDSS organisation on behalf of the side. Jim Barclay volunteered.

Squire's Report. The Squire said that 1993/4 had been another busy year with only a few disappointments (Thaxted being one). He had particularly enjoyed Jack Garwood's seaside tour, the Cotswold weekend and the Morris holiday. A measure of the health of the side was that practices, which were essential for the continuing well-being of the side, had been well attended for most of the year. There were only a few apprentices but all had made good progress and it was unfortunate that John Hare had had to move to the West Country. He had been encouraged to receive two unsolicited compliments from other sides during the year about the standard of the side's dancing and felt that the next Squire would inherit a side in good shape. He thanked the President, John Glaister and the other officers of the club for their support during his term as Squire. It had been a privilege to be Squire but he felt that it was time for a change, so that he would not be standing again.

Election of Officers.

Treasurer. Robert Peace said that he would not be standing for re-election. Jon Stanley-Rhodes was elected unopposed.

Ragman. Edward Morris was re-elected unopposed.

Bagman. John Elkins was re-elected unopposed.

Squire. There were two nominees, Jim Barclay and John Walsh. Following short statements by both nominees a vote was taken and John Walsh was elected Squire.

Other Business. It was agreed to renew membership of the Morris Ring, EFDSS, the Woodland Trust and the Elmbridge Twinning Guild. Peter Jones revealed that he had been wearing breeches throughout the meeting but failed to persuade the side to change its standard kit. Jim Brooks collected pledges of cakes for Boxing day. Martin Kiff reported that he was in touch with American Morris enthusiasts through the computer Internetwork.

John Elkins, Bagman, 4-12-94

Nov 22 fixtures meeting

December 26. Boxing Day tour of Claygate. We danced as usual at The Swan, The Foley, The Hare and Hounds, The Winning Horse, The Griffin where Tom, as usual provided sandwiches and chicken bits for the men. We collected £374.48.



1995 LOG

Jan 11. Christopher Penton's Birthday. Letter from Chris Ridley. *Dear Cyril, As a long-time friend of Chris Penton I thought you might like to hear how we celebrated his birthday yesterday evening -- as Trigg Morris Men have always done on January 11th. As I'm sure you remember, he was always highly tickled to know that the date belonged to St Hygenus.*

Before his death he invited us and friends to a small gathering on his birthdays at his house at Wenfordbridge, midway between Bodmin and Camelford. He gave us food and drink and we responded with music and songs. We still continue this jovial evening every year at various pubs, recently at The Old Inn at St Breward, close to Wenfordbridge, a charming old pub whose small bar we completely fill. The landlord is delighted with the whole thing and provides sausage-rolls and chips; in return we entertain the whole pub with party-pieces of various sorts, songs, monologues, jokes etc. Chris Penton's old fez (the green and gold one with the gold tassel -- do you remember it?) is passed around and whoever is doing their bit is required to wear it. At a certain point in the evening glasses of rum-and-shrub (Chris' favourite drink) are passed around and Happy Birthday To You is sung. Pete Marlow brings a birthday-cake -- you will remember he had Chris in his special care at St. Lawrence's Mental Hospital. Of course we dance, whatever the weather (it has been snowing before now). One of the dances is always Wenford Bridge, a Bucknell stick-dance we devised in Chris' memory. Our squire wears Chris' bellpads and waistcoat as you know. Sixteen dancers turned out last night.

So as you see, there is no chance of Chris being forgotten just yet. Do not trouble answering this letter, but if you can send it on to Jim Brooks and any other of the older TVMM they may be interested to read it. Of course, if any of you could be in Cornwall next Jan 11th come along with us. Cheers, Chris Ridley.

Friday, March 3. Bagman's Night Out, at the Greek Valley, Tolworth, and attended by our ancient President Smith.

Saturday, April 1. Dancing in the Malls for the Woking Dance Festival.

Saturday, April 1. Steve Ashcroft's 25th Wedding Anniversary. John Glaister and the Triumph Band and TVMM helped the celebrations at Merton Hall, South Wimbledon. Steve and Valerie thanked TVMM helping to make the evening special for them and their guests.

Tuesday, April 4. Joan Glaister's 80th birthday. At the Youth Centre in Claygate with plenty of eating drinking and dancing.

Saturday, April 29 Hocktide, Kingston on Thames. From the Newsletter. *"Hocktide went well. One innovation which pleased me was that I managed to arrange for us to have tea and cakes in Kingston Parish Church, and while we were there we danced a few dances for the tea lady. The rest of the day was in keeping with recent tradition - Ewell and Spring Grove put out part teams for part of the day, Yateley put out two teams for the day and one for the evening and TVMM struggled through. Angus Stewart put in a guest appearance. Manny, the landlord of the Wych Elm, called me Amigo, (being Spanish - Manny that is, not me) so that was alright, and the Fuller's IPA won my beer of the day competition, by a nose from the Sam Smith Museum at the Gazebo".* We Danced at the Bishop Out of Residence, the Parish

Church, the Marketplace, and outside Bentalls with Yateley, Spring Grove, and Ewell. Tea and cakes behind the high altar in the church then off to the Wych Elm for further refreshments and finally to the Swinnerton Hall for the Ale. Jim Brooks turned out and brought pickled shallots and red cabbage. We sent the church £50.

Friday, May 5. Spring Fling, Pyrford.

Saturday, May 13 Broadwood Day of Dance, Horsham. From the newsletter again. *“I went to Broadwood’s Day of Dance for the first time on Saturday and thoroughly enjoyed and recommend it. Jack Garwood danced with us all day (do I detect a come-back bid Jack?) and Dennis Salt joined us for Bonny Green. The K&B was very good and the electric ceilidh was bearable - not that I was tempted to join in of course, not even for I’m An Urban Spaceman. My favourite spot was in an alleyway by the Bear where we danced to the accompaniment of three very loud dogs. Oh yes, there were rather a lot of Morris-type dancers there (including Magog) so we had to keep throwing buckets of water over Fran”.*

Saturday, May 20. Edward and Jon’s Tour. Dancing at the Running Horses, Mickleham; The Stepping Stones, Westhumble; The Ranmore Arms; The Malthouse, Dorking; The King William IV, Mickleham. Lasagne, chips and salad lunch at the Stepping Stones, “Tea and a bun” at Edward’s cottage at South Holmwood at tea time.

Saturday, May 27. Twinning visit to Claygate. TVMM danced at lunchtime at the Hare and Hounds for a jumelage party from Rueil Malmaison. Our Elmbridge Twinning Guild contact Paul Vanson thanked TVMM for *“continuing the spirit of Twinning”* and noted that apart from the dancing *“there was the added enjoyment of a Groom being encouraged to participate in the dancing whilst at the Pub awaiting his wedding at the nearby Church”.*

Saturday, June 3. Martin’s Berkshire tour. We danced, with Countryside, at the Bell, Aldworth; Basildon Park; The Royal Oak, Yattendon; The Pot Kiln, Frilsham.

Sunday, June 11. Paul Brooks’ Tour. Lunch at the Windsor Castle, Little Bookham followed by the Effingham Village Day on the King George V Playing fields.

Saturday, June 17. Ewell Day of Dance. Walking tour of Ewell for John Elkins, John Walsh, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Mick Jenkins, Edward Morris, Martin Kiff, Fran Smith, Jon Stanley and Mervyn Stanley. Another great day of dancing, eating and drinking. John Walsh writes: *“At our turn in the Ewell Church fete we were doing Constant Billy Sherborne. Mervyn was playing but forgot the tune when he came to the B music. He wasn’t at all fazed and just improvised all the rest of the way through. No problem for the dancers. I called it Constant Stanley for a while after that.”*

Friday June 23. Siward and Jenny’s garden party.

Tuesday, June 27. Chertsey. An evening with Yateley at The Crown, The Kings Head, The Coach and Horses, The Swan, The Vine, and The Crown!

Saturday July 1. Jan’s Tour. – The Golden Grove, Chertsey; The Royal Marine, Lyne; St. Peter’s hospital fete; Jan & Muff’s house for tea; The Castle Ottershaw; The Black Horse Addlestone. A thankyou letter from St. Peter’s saying: *“It was the first time we have had Morris dancers and our residents much enjoyed the new experience”.*

Monday, July 3. Sendmarsh. An evening at The Saddlers with Jack Straws.

Weekend July 7/9. Hereford. A weekend based on Siward and Jenny's cottage beside the



river Wye at Fownhope. Most people camped in the surrounding fields, which fortunately is not too long a walk from the village pubs. Saturday's dance spots were the Hope and Anchor, Ross on Wye; the Town Square, Hereford; the Mayfield Shopping Centre, Hereford; the Green Man, Fownhope. Two stops on Sunday, at the New Inn, Fownhope and the Butchers Arms at Woolhope.

Saturday, July 15. Claygate Flower Show. Back to our roots to dance at The Griffin, and then two spots at the Show where Thames Valley made its first ever appearance in 1952.



Weekend July 21/23. Magog 21st Birthday Weekend. A group of TVMM men put their names down for this, but didn't go. I can't remember now how Fran was able to resist the prospect of Magog sandwiches, which Allan Goddard had previously experienced. We sent them a £25 cheque to apologise for pulling out at the last minute.

Friday, July 28. Joan Glaister's funeral. TVMM turned out in numbers to say goodbye to Joan at St. John's crematorium, Woking and afterwards at Siward and Jenny's. The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford News and Mail wrote: *"It was standing room only in the chapel at St. John's Crematorium, Woking, as her family and many friends joined in the unique service, arranged by her husband John. Retired headmaster Dennis Salt, a family friend, was 'Master of Ceremonies' at the service as mourners arrived to harp music played by a friend, known to all as Muff. Mrs Glaister's favourite tunes were played and sung, there were quiet periods when people could voice their thoughts and a reading by sister-in-law Jenny Glaister and then people filed out of the chapel to playing of The Morris Call by John on his Melodeon. Dancers from both teams (Thames Valley and Countryside) performed outside to complete the programme."*

Wednesday, August 2. An evening with Countryside at The Grande Retirement Home, Chertsey and The Crown, Trump's Green.



Weekend August 4/6. Men of Wight Ring Meeting. Indoor camping and Saturday feast at the Isle of Wight College between Cowes and Newport. Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, John Hall, Mick Jenkins, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Jon Stanley, Mervyn Stanley, Phil Underwood attended. At our

second stop, at Godshill, John Hall (Blob) collapsed and died during Bampton Trunkles. We decided to carry on dancing and dedicated our Show Dance on Sandown Sea Front, Constant Billy Sherborne, to Blob in the presence of a very large crowd, respectfully silent throughout.

Chalice M.M. complimented us in a subsequent letter for our *“fortitude in carrying on in such difficult circumstances”*. Mick Jenkins remembers: *“We had 13 dancers at that spot in Godshill and when Bampton Trunkles was called, I stepped out leaving 2 sets of 6. I walked a little way away to take a photo, which I still have.*



Unfortunately I was more interested in getting as many thatched cottages in the frame as possible rather than the dancing, so, although the dancers, including Blob, are shown, they are way in the distance. After taking the photo I walked back to where the dancing was happening, and, just as I got there, half way through Trunkles, Blob asked me to step in for him, which I did. We finished the dance, and when I looked round I saw that Blob had walked a few yards away before collapsing.” Jan Lucas: *“And John G would never play Bampton Trunkles after that.”* Phil Underwood: *“I do remember I went with Blob in the ambulance and persuaded the nurse to let me take his kit, which she wasn't supposed to do.”*

Some years later Hilda Gibson, at a meeting of The West Country Concertina Players, heard somebody say: "I had a terrible shock a little while ago, whilst playing for Morris Dancers one of them collapsed and died". It was Mike Long of Exeter MM, but playing with Chalice in the Isle of Wight, who took turns trying to resuscitate John, but by the time the paramedics arrived "he had gone from us. I took off his bells for the last time".

Sunday, August 13. Chertsey Show.

Monday, August 14. Blob's funeral at Guildford Crematorium.

Weekend August 26/8. Cotswolds weekend. This was in a way Blob's Memorial Tour, since he'd helped organise it with Dave Dearsley. The Saturday tour took in The Earl Grey,

Quenington; The New Inn, Colne St. Aldwyn; The Victoria, Eastleach; the Eastleach Summer Fete. On Sunday we processed from the King's Head to The Mill then back to the K.H, followed by the Roman Villa at Chedworth and The Seven Tuns at Chedworth. In between all this was camping in the field beside the K.H., plus music, drinking and Dam Busting in the K.H.

Saturday, Sept 16. Yateley Day of Dance.

Friday, October 13. Andy's Do, Harmondsworth Harvest Festival Supper. After meeting at The Crown we (John Glaister, Mervyn Stanley, Jan Lucas, Tim Cawdron, Jamie Glaister (plus goat), John Elkins, Paul Brooks, Edward Morris, Tim Sharp, Andy Melville) dined in St. Mary's Church Hall and danced for our supper with country dancing for afters. The PCC Treasurer wrote to say: *"We were all very impressed with your performance, the very expert dances that were shown us, and the ease with which they were executed."*

Saturday, October 21. Cup Hill Ale. Six (?) men attended the Ale in the Scout Hut, Charterhouse Hill, Godalming.

Friday, October 27. One World Day. An evening of multicultural dance at the All Nations Party in Woking.

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14th 1995

Present: Steve Ashcroft, Jim Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Farrant, Jamie Glaister, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Alan Goddard, Paul Goddard, Martin Kiff, Mick Jenkins, Dick Keen, Jan Lucas, Edward Morris, Robert Peace, Cyril Smith, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Jon Stanley, Steve Tovey, Mike Vardy, John Walsh.

Thames Valley Roll of Honour. The Squire reminded the meeting of former members of the side who were now deceased - Peter Dashwood, Amnon Derrenberg, John Hall, Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussem, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Ted Perry, Phil Sylvester, Gordon Smith, Bill Tofts.

Minutes of the 1994 AGM. The minutes had been circulated by the Bagman and were taken as read.

Treasurers Report. The Treasurer circulated Accounts for the period from January to October 1995. He estimated that the club currently had assets of nearly £2,000, of which £675 was the stock of kit. Income had exceeded expenditure by £120 during the year and cash in hand (and the bank) amounted to £1,100. There had been no income from hotel jobs during the year.

Ragman's Report. Income from sales of new kit amounted to £100 in 1995- The Ragman's report includes a list of items of kit held by members on behalf of the club. The Bagman was asked to extend the list to include other items of club property.

Bagman's Report. The Bagman said that there had been only 5 "traditional" tours during the year, which was a little disappointing. Nevertheless it had been another very busy year with a total of about 30 dancing events. One commitment had been broken - to attend the Magog

Day of Dance - and the Morris Holiday had fallen by the wayside. Apart from that there had always been (usually just) enough dancers to see us through.

The side had danced at the Broadwood, Ewell and Yateley Days of Dance, and the Isle of Wight Ring Meeting and had danced on other occasions with Jack Straws, Countryside and Yateley. Fran had attended the Cup Hill Ale. The Bagman suggested that in 1995 the club should separate the Ale from Hocktide and organise an Ale with overnight accommodation to the south of our area to try to attract and cement our friendship with clubs in that direction, for instance Cup Hill, Broadwood, and Pilgrim.

There had been several special events - Cyril Smith's 91st birthday, the Bagman's Night Out, Steve Ashcroft's 25th Wedding Anniversary, Joan Glaister's 80th Birthday Party and, sadly, the deaths of Joan and of John Hall.

The renewed contact with the Elmbridge Twinning Guild had led to a very successful visit to Rueil in 1994, and another was planned for November 1995.

Squire's Report. The Squire said that soon after the last AGM he had been assigned to work in the Manchester area with the result that he had only been able to attend a few practices and Morris events during the year. He thanked the other officers for their support and particularly Fran Smith, who had agreed to stand in as Foreman in his absence. He had noted that the side's repertoire had contracted and that the standard of dancing had become very variable. Both were probably caused by a decline in numbers at practice and he hoped that this trend could be reversed. It had been a mixed year for the side in other ways, with the deaths of Joan Glaister and John Hall, Steve Ashcroft's Silver Wedding and the birth of a daughter, Laura, to Tim Cawdron. Steve Tovey expressed the wishes of the club when he said that he hoped that John would be able to stand again as Squire when work permitted.

Election of Officers.

Treasurer. Jon Stanley was re-elected unopposed. **Ragman.** Edward Morris was re-elected unopposed. **Bagman.** John Elkins was re-elected unopposed. **Squire.** There were two nominees, Francis Smith and Mervyn Stanley. A vote was taken and Mervyn Stanley was elected Squire.

Other Business.

It was agreed to renew membership of the Morris Ring, EFDSS, the Woodland Trust and the Elmbridge Twinning Guild.

It was suggested and agreed that an instructional weekend should be organised towards the end of February. Siward and John Glaister agreed to find and book a hall.

Cyril Smith suggested that the side's Boxing Day show could do with livening up. Mick Jenkins agreed to organise some Rapper for Boxing Day. Other suggestions were singing, clog dancing, audience participation and a mummer's play.

John Elkins suggested that the side needed someone to co-ordinate publicity and recruitment. Tim Cawdron agreed to supervise such activities. Edward Morris and Jamie Glaister also volunteered to be involved.

Jim Brooks collected pledges of cakes for Boxing Day.

John Elkins Bagman 28-11-95

November 17/19. Rueil Malmaison. From the Newsletter: *"The highlights for me were*

- Having gloomy John as coach driver again - just like last time;

- Fran wanting to go "up on top deck" as we crossed under the Channel;

- Edward inviting the whole (?) Russian choir to Elmbridge;

- Stocking up on Australian wine in the Calais Tesco's.

The main twinning activity was a Christmas Fair at Rueil race course with hundreds (I kid you not) of stalls selling sausage, wine, bread, pate etc etc and one Elmbridge stall selling stiff upper lip, M&S Christmas Pies, Christmas Cake, Dundee Cake and definitely no free samples. Wonder why they brought most of their stock back and had to sell it to us cheap on the coach?"

A spectator at the racecourse asked John E which country TVMM came from. She suggested Poland or Canada. On being told that we were from England she replied (Non, les Anglais ne dansent pas." Maybe she was right?

Tuesday November 21. Fixtures Meeting at the Foley.

Monday November 27. Alpha Club, Shepperton. From the newsletter: *"The best thankyou we had all year was, I thought, when we danced in Shepperton recently for the Alpha Club - people with learning difficulties. I've never heard such a storm of applause as greeted us (5 only) dancers."*

Friday December 1. Pyrford Christmas party.



1996 THAMES VALLEY LOG

Saturday, January 27. We celebrated Cyril's birthday at the Foley at lunchtime.

February 23/25. Instructional weekend, Dockenfield. We visited Mellow Farm again for another indoor camping training weekend a la Sandyballs and Halsey. Dennis Salt taught us how to do Lucy of Lyne, which we now call The Horsham Stick Dance. He also attempted to convince TVMM that they could dance Old Dan Roberts, a mildly difficult (or impossible, depending on your point of view) Horsham dance, but they resisted manfully. Dick Keen writes: "*Dennis Salt showed us Lucy of Lyne and we nailed it. Then he showed us another one (named after the local postman?) and we nearly got it. We broke for lunch at a local pub. Came back and tried the second one again and collapsed in a drunken heap. Dennis had to go so gave up (in disgust??).*" Mick Jenkins also tried to get us interested in rapper, with a little success. Third time lucky? No. Siward struggled manfully to convince us that a fiendishly difficult Withington dance was danceable. Same result. Jill Jones ran the kitchen and the cooked breakfasts were the hit of the weekend. Local pubs also benefitted from our presence. There was talk of a film show of TVMM archive films but this foundered when a film of a buxom lady and an inquisitive spider got shown in front of Graeme's ever present children and had to be cut.

Friday, March 8. The Bagman's Night Out at the Vecchia Roma in Molesey. Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Farrant, Jack Garwood, Paul Goddard, Andy Melville, Edward Morris, Robert Peace, Cyril Smith, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Mike Vardy, John Walsh attended with or without partners. 28 in all.

Friday, March 22. £300 for 30 minutes from 9.00 p.m. at the Chelsea hotel, Sloane Street for SANYO ENERGY UK including 10 minutes of audience participation. The organisers handed out square wooden cups filled with Saki to TVMM.

Saturday, April 20. Hocktide. We danced with Yateley M.M. at the Bishop, Kingston Parish Church, the Financier and Firkin, the Market Place, the church (again), Bentalls and the Wych Elm. Asked for and got tea at the Parish Church and made a donation of £50.

Saturday, April 27. Winchester Folk Festival. Saturday only. We were short of music and JE appealed for help because John G., Merv and Fran were all otherwise engaged. Chris Ridley wrote from Cornwall: "*I now wish to refer to TV's lack of a musician at Winchester and greatly daring would like to put myself forward to fill (or partially fill) the gap. I have always had the idea of playing for my old side which I was never allowed to do in those early years. Even if I am not going to be the main musician at Winchester - and I can never be regarded as such - I could be used as a relief for Jim Barclay or whoever else can play, to allow them to dance. Obviously the "new" dances that Merv has been getting together will only be possible after some intensive tuition once we all get to the site (presumably Friday) but I would hope to put on a good show thereafter. The offered half-pint is certainly an inducement but I hope this offer can be seen as a genuine opportunity for me to contribute to you all*". Chris played throughout (without tuition) and only mixed up his A's and Bs once, in a Bampton dance. He was joined briefly by a harmonica player from the crowd who played very well. We danced at the Precinct, the Buttercross, the Lower Square and the Cathedral Green with Chipping Campden M.M. who danced **ONLY** their own, very few dances. Dick

Keen remembers: "At this event, after about 10 mins tuition, Martin Kiff handed responsibility for the horse (then called Dobbin) over to me. After that, Martin headed off to Vienna and was rarely seen again. I also remember Rhona Cobb tracking us down to our lunchtime pub (which was well off the tour circuit) without prior information. I also think it was here when J Elkins mentioned to the Winchester squire the adage "Please the crowd, please yourself and get it right". He was smartly reprimanded for such frivolity – the only thing was "getting it right" and the crowd should consider themselves honoured to witness the event." **John E.:** "The adage came to me from someone in GUM at a Yateley Day of Dance."

Saturday May 11. Broadwood Day of Dance. Was this the one where we first saw and decided to adopt Lucy of Line?

Saturday May 18. Siward's tour. The Plough, Downside, The Black Swan, Martyr's Green, The Peacock Centre, Woking, Tea at Siward's, The Four Horseshoes "by a green on the Chertsey side of Chobham", The Vine Chertsey. Then music session, camp fire, beer at Siward's.

Monday, May 20. An evening with Datchet M.M. at "The Bells" in Staines.

May 25/26/27. Helier Ale. Nine men (and a camp-follower!?) flew from Gatwick, returning on Monday. 5 others did their own thing. The list published in March suggested that Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Farrant, Jamie, John and Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Dave Henderson, Peter Jones, Jan Lucas, Chris Ridley, Fran Smith, Jon Stanley, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson would be there. The Helier Men extracted a grant of £1,250 from the local Arts Trust and gave us £625 to help with travel costs. Helier met the main party at the airport and ferried us by minibus to our accommodation at St. George's prep school. Chris and Janet Ridley flew direct from Exeter. Chris wrote: "I see the accommodation is described as 5-star compared with normal morris accommodation; presumably this means the basins actually still have plugs". We danced around Jersey with our hosts and Dolphin M.M., including "a standing still tour of the largest micro-brewery in the world" - The Topsy Toad. Dolphin sent us a very nice letter thanking us for our company. "You made a good choice staying off the ferry. It was rather rough as far as Guernsey".

Squire Mervyn wrote the following thank you letter.

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN Bagman: John Elkins Squire: Mervyn Stanley 22. June 1996

To all our friends in The Helier Morris Men,

Last night I was reminded that nearly a month has passed and I have not yet written to thank you all for one of the best weekends we have had for many a year. So many pleasant things happened that weekend that after practice we sit in the pub and continue the never-ending-story.

The week-end got off to a flying start when we all boarded the magnificent Postman Pat little red bus. The accommodation in the music room was splendid even if some of the nightly sounds were not all that musical. We would like to thank again your lady cook and helpers who supplied such exciting food for us. The Saturday Night feast will register as one of the best we have ever attended and you have now set a standard in food, drink and entertainment

which the rest of us are going to find it hard to follow. We very much appreciate the way you organized the tour on Saturday which allowed those of us who had never been to Jersey before to take in and be informed about the many and varied aspects of your lovely island.

The Brewery tour was wonderful and we are all in love with the head brewer. She could read out instructions as to how we were to jump out of a plane without a parachute and I for one would instantly obey. We were pleasantly surprised at both the variety and the prices of the real ales. The music sessions are a thing to be remembered for a very long time and the hospitality offered when we wanted to stay over for the extra day will not be forgotten.

Helier Morris Men have set down a bench mark by which we will now have to judge the success or otherwise of our own endeavours and as such have advanced the fellowship of the morris.

Please contact us if any of you are in our area and need beds, transport, meeting at the airport etc. Your Spring Ale has reminded us again that the fellowship of the Morris is a valuable and powerful force.

Thank-you.

We look forward to meeting you all once more at Trigg.

Still in step,

Mervyn J A Stanley.

[Was this the Ale where a folk singer from one of the sides lulled us all into a sleepy boredom, only broken, suddenly, by the next act, Chris Ridley singing about a landlord's daughter?]

Saturday June 1. Edward and Jon's tour. King's Manor Hotel, Walton; The Swan, Walton, The Boathouse, Chertsey Bridge.

Friday, June 21. Siward's Garden Party.

Saturday, June 22. Wimbledon Village Fair. £70 for three dance stops in Wimbledon Village.

Sunday, June 23. Mick's Riverbank tour. Mick Jenkins' Sunday lunchtime/afternoon three city tour of the Bonesgate (Chessington), West Ewell primary School Fair, and the Hogsmill (Worcester Park).

Saturday, June 29. East Surrey Day of Dance. Dorking, Coldharbour, Oakwood Hill, Polesden Lacey, Brockham Green, Leigh, with Easy Surrey and Winchester.

July 5/8. Krov. I wrote to Frau Skodowski in the Verkehrsburo Krov in November 1995 and received an invitation in early December. The formal invitation from Ortsburgermeister Elmar Trossen arrived in February. We engaged Cars International (John the Coach and Gill) to coach us again as in 1993 but this time, unexpectedly, his coach didn't break down once. We travelled by the Dover-Calais Ferry leaving from Siward's home in Woodham on Thursday evening and returning on Monday morning. The majority of the party camped in the school - Jim Barclay, Michael Beaumont, Tim Cawdron, Angela Coombes, John Elkins, John and Jamie Glaister, Alan Goddard, Pauline Davies, Jill Jones, Peter Jones, Dick and

Michelle Keen, Jan Lucas , Robert Peace, Malcolm and Duncan Snowden, Fran Smith, Graeme Thompson, Phil Underwood, Mike Vardy, John Walsh. Other stayed in hotels/B&Bs (Tony and Margaret Brown and son, Siward and Jenny Glaister, Mick Jenkins and family, Martin Kiff and Dorritt, Edward and Maureen Morris, Denis Salt, Jon Stanley and Maria, Cheryl Whittington.



It was the usual splendid weekend of dancing around the town with the occasional drink of beer or wine, but details elude my memory! Including what the following card from Cheryl refers to. *"Thank you Thames Valley Male Voice Choir for making my birthday so different, for the loud singing, and for the duck, which I will treasure until the end of my days, or next Thursday, if earlier. You were all very kind, and I loved your performance."* We also had a nice thank you letter from Elmar Trossen. *"THAMES VALLEY Morris Men, Herrn John Elkins: Sehr geehte Damen und Herren, liebe Trachten- und Musikfreunde! . . . Wir danken Ihnen ganz herzlich fur Ihre Teilnahme und verbinden damit gleichzeitig die Hoffnung, dass es auch Ihnen im singenden, klingenden, tanzenden und weinfrohen Krov gefallen hat. Wir wunschen Ihnen und Ihrer Gruppe fur die zukunfft alles Gute und viel Erfolg."* Thanks Elmar.



July 12/14. Trigg Ring Meeting. The interim list was John G, Siward, Paul Goddard?, Paul Brooks?, Peter Jones, Fran, Mervyn, Steve Tovey, John E, although the final number was probably less. We lodged on the floor of the Community College in Bodmin and danced on Saturday at the Molesworth Arms Hotel in Wadebridge; on "the platt" and at the Golden Lion in Port Isaac; the Napoleon Inn and two other spots in Boscastle; the Royal Oak at Blisland; and then back to Bodmin for the Feast. The menu was Smoked Mackerel and Horseradish, Roast Rib of Beef and vegetables, Summer Crumble with Clotted Cream, Yarg Cheese and Cornish Wafers, Coffee. In his speech at the feast the Squire of the Ring welcomed all the sides, including Grand Union Morris Men. Up jumped Lester Bailey (of TVMM and GUM) to remind him that he should have said "Grand Union Morris". Quite right Lester. There was a service at St.Petroc's church, Bodmin on Sunday morning and massed dancing at Mount Folly. Squire Mervyn sent the following thank you letter to Trigg.

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN Bagman: John Elkins Squire: Mervyn Stanley

26. July.1996 From the Thames Valley Morris Men to all our friends in The Trigg Morris Men,

I have been reminded that nearly a fortnight has passed and I have not yet written to thank you all, on behalf of TVMM, for adding another splendid weekend to those we have already had so far this year. Although we were a little down on numbers we were privileged to be at a meet where the presence of Chris Penton was so strongly felt. We do not know St.Albans very well but to have been at a Ring Meeting where all three of Chris's teams were present was for me, who knew him and Nancy very well, a great privilege and for which I shall always thank Trigg Morris Men.

So many pleasant things happened that weekend. The week-end got off to a flying start when having arrived we were immediately presented with supper. Can we please have the recipe of the pasties? They were exactly what we wanted and set us in good humour for what was to follow. Your magnificent choral section led us through some of the lustiest singing we have heard for years and your beer at very attractive prices sent us off to bed readily anticipating the morrow.

None of TVMM or our tour were to be disappointed even though we were to have the dubious company of East Surrey. Their spiritual support, malt or Jack Daniels, will be remembered for a long time. The wonderful tour you laid on for us, including Port Isaac and that lovely girl who served us beer will form the basis of anecdotes and late-night dreams for some time to come. The lunch stop was great and nobody wanted to stop dancing until two separate music sessions persuaded them to sit down. We were privileged to have Rutland Morris on the tour and as a point of record, by the Sunday morning I had danced more with them than with TVMM. We are very happy to meet them all.

We would like to thank again your lady cook and helpers who supplied such exciting food for us. The Saturday Night feast will register as one of the finest we have ever attended and you have now set a standard in food drink and entertainment which the rest of us are going to find it hard to follow. We all appreciated the many fine touches you introduced such as the wine waiters when for most of us just providing a basic ring meeting would have been daunting enough.

Trigg Morris Men have set down a bench mark by which we will now have to judge the success or otherwise of our own endeavours and as such have advanced the fellowship of the morris. Your Ring Meeting has reminded us again that the fellowship of the Morris is a valuable and powerful force.

Still in step, Mervyn J A Stanley.

A hint of deja vu in Mervyn's letter?

Wednesday July 17. With Countryside at The Rose and Olive Branch, Englefield Green.

Saturday, July 20. Jack's tour.

Delving into the Downs. Jack Garwood's splendid and scenic tour of Sussex. The Three Horseshoes, Elsted, The Unicorn Inn, Heyshott, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, The Old Barn, East Wittering, the Crown and Anchor Dell Quay. Jack pointed out that it was at the Unicorn in 1990 that Andy Melville turned his ankle over dancing on the grass - but he took us there again anyway.



Tuesday, July 23rd. The Castle, Ottershaw with Yateley M.M.

July 27th weekend Digger's tour around Dulverton, Somerset. Including Friday night skittles at Badger's Holt pub, and barn dance and barbecue at Kendle Farm. Exton P.C.C. thanked Digger for a £50 donation to the St.Peter's Roof Appeal.

Saturday August 10. John Glaister's 80th birthday tour. A coach tour of the New Forest with Countryside in a luxury cruiseliner coach supplied and driven by "John the coach". Stops at The Royal Oak, Fritham, The Lamb, No Man's Land, Sandy Balls and The Victoria, Woodham.



Wednesday, August 14. The Ship, Ripley with Pilgrim M.M.

August 23/26, The Cotswolds. Saturday pubs: The Crown, Frampton Mansell; The Daneway, Sapperton; The Tunnel House, Coates: Village Fete at Ampney Crucis or a stop at Cirencester {I don't remember which}. Sunday events: Procession from the King's Head to the Mill; back to the King's Head for more dancing; The Roman Villa, The Seven Tuns.

Saturday, September 14. Yateley Day of Dance.

October 5/6. Thames Valley Ale. We hired two barns at Mellow Farm, Dockenfield, near Farnham and assembled at the New Inn before moving on to Mellow Farm. Dancing, drinking etc started in Barn 1 before the meal in Barn 2. This was a sleepover ale, with indoor/outdoor camping in/around Barn1 followed by breakfast in Barn 1. Cup Hill, GUM, and Yateley were invited, but only three men from Yateley turned up. It was cold and wet.

Friday October 18. One World Day, Woking Leisure Centre.

October 25/27. Fools and Animals Unconvention. This was an Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts event jointly sponsored by Greensleeves, who did most of the organising and Thames Valley. Steve Ashcroft, of course, had a foot in both camps. The Arbrook Hall, Claygate was booked for the weekend for sleeping and feasting. TVMM joined in the dancing on Saturday at the Winner, the Griffin and the Foley. Robin Cobb, Mick Jenkins, Robert Peace and Edward Morris were singled out for thanks by the organisers. Dick Keen: *"I went as an official TVMM rep with the horse (now renamed Shergar), and Robert Peace as TVMM's fool. I particularly remember a mild-looking elderly man who had a hooden horse which was a full-on horses skull. At one stop, he had kids all over it, stroking the skull, whilst their mums stood back petrified."*

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12th 1996

Present: Steve Ashcroft, Jim Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Farrant, John Glaister, Paul Goddard, Dick Keen, Edward Morris, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Jon Stanley, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Steve Tovey, Mike Vardy.

Martin Kiff, Siward Glaister, Andrew Melville, Chris Ridley and John Walsh sent apologies for absence. Cyril Smith was in Kingston Hospital following a stroke.

Thames Valley Roll of Honour. The Squire reminded the meeting of former members of the side who were now deceased - Peter Dashwood, Amnon Derrenberg, John Hall, Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussem, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Ted Perry, Phil Sylvester, Gordon Smith, Bill Tofts. He also mentioned Joan Glaister.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer circulated accounts for 1996/97. Six events had been subsidised by a total of £847.21 but total expenditure for the year had only exceeded income by £131.28. This was more than balanced by an increase in stock held by the Ragman.

Ragman's Report. The Ragman circulated his report for 1996/97. Total expenditure for the year had been £506.59, total income was £196.65. The value of stock held at the end of the year was about £800???

Bagman's Report. The Bagman said that it had been a very busy and sometimes rewarding season. The side could still put on a good show when it wanted to make the effort, but increasingly it did not. Although special events such as Boxing Day, Rueil, the Instructional weekend, Krov, the Trigg Ring Meeting and John Glaister's birthday tour continued to attract large sides several other events had been poorly supported. Part of the problem was that the fixtures list was too crowded, for which the Bagman accepted the blame, but there were also fewer experienced dancers prepared to turn out regularly. Two innovations which had proved successful during the year were the use of Merrow Farm at Dockenfield for the Instructional weekend and the Ale, and the coach trip to the New Forest. Weekday dancing, with Datchet, Yateley, Countryside, and Pilgrim had proved popular.

Squire's Report. The Squire said that shortage of numbers, particularly of experienced dancers, had affected attendance at Tuesday practices and the standard of dancing throughout the year. He had tried to reduce and to standardise the dances performed by the side but shortage of dancers sometimes restricted dances to those which those present could all do. It had been difficult to provide good dancing sides for some events, even for some which appeared to be popular in the recent questionnaire.

He thanked Denis Salt for teaching the side some Horsham dances and Siward Glaister for teaching us Withington. All these dances were now part of the side's repertoire.

He also thanked Steve Tovey and Paul Goddard for their services to Tuesday practice, John Walsh for standing in as Squire from time to time, and all the side's musicians, especially John Glaister for their efforts during the year.

Fixtures Policy for 1996/7. On the recommendation of the outgoing Squire and Bagman this item was taken before the election of officers in case those standing for election were unhappy with the outcome. [*The Bagman had circulated a detailed Fixtures Questionnaire to members asking for their views on weekend versus weekday events and on whether to repeat events danced in the last two years and received 18 replies.*] The Bagman spoke in favour of some changes to fixtures arrangements for 1996/7. The results of the recent fixtures questionnaire had confirmed that the overwhelming majority of the active membership wanted fewer weekend events and more midweek dancing out. By reducing one and increasing the other there might well be no significant change in the total number of events next year. In selecting events priority would be given to proposals made by members, but it was suggested that a fixtures programme should be put together by the Squire and Bagman and submitted to members for approval, rather than be assembled at a fixtures meeting. Fixtures would not be chosen or rejected simply because of the number of votes they had received in the questionnaire.

There was a wide-ranging discussion in which the following points were made:

- * There were other ways of reorganising fixtures (although none were put forward);
- * Some "unpopular" events should be retained if they were "local community" events;
- * We should ensure that the Foley was happy for TVMM not to be in residence every Tuesday;
- * There was a need to increase members' commitments to events in advance so that early decisions could be taken about pulling out if necessary;
- * The side needed more publicity.

Finally, the following motion was accepted by an overwhelming majority of those present:

That TVMM will, for a trial period of one year, dance a combined programme of weekend and weekday events, the format of each being based on the definitions supplied by the bagman and printed in the newsletter dated 6th November 1996; and that TVMM may alter the Tuesday night dancing out sessions to accommodate invitations from other local clubs.

It was also agreed that a meeting would be organised early in December to discuss the fixtures list proposed by the Bagman and Squire.

Election of Officers. Treasurer. Jon Stanley was re-elected unopposed. Bagman. Edward Morris was re-elected unopposed. Bagman. John Elkins was re-elected unopposed. Squire. Mervyn Stanley was re-elected unopposed.

Other Business.

Publicity and membership. It was agreed that this was such an important matter that it should also be discussed at the meeting in December.

Membership subscriptions. Discussion was deferred until the December meeting.

The Bagman said that he would in any case invite country and non-active members to contribute voluntarily towards the cost of the newsletter.

Jim Brooks collected pledges of cakes for Boxing Day.

John Elkins, Bagman, 24-11-96

Friday, December 6. Pyrford Christmas Party.

Tuesday, December 10. The Foley. Following the discussion at the AGM about future fixtures policy 15 men attended a "Not The Fixtures Meeting" on December to discuss fixtures for 1997 and other matters. It was decided to abolish weekly "subs" payable at the Foley and to replaced them with an annual membership charge of £10.00. A proposed fixtures list for 1997 was confirmed, with a few adjustments. Fran agreed to lead a new membership drive.

Tuesday, December 17. Tolworth Hospital. Cyril had suffered a stroke in December and been taken to Kingston Hospital and subsequently moved to Tolworth Hospital, where the side visited him and danced in his ward.

Thursday, December 26. Boxing Day, Claygate. The Swan, The Foley, The Hare and Hounds, The Winning Horse, The Griffin. We collected around £275.

1997 LOG

Monday, Jan 20. Cyril Smith's Funeral. TVMM danced at the Randalls Park Crematorium and afterwards at The Bear, Oxshott. There was a very high turnout, including many country members, among them Peter Keam, Brian Heaton, Alan Dean, Malcolm Hendra, Digger Glaister, and Hugh and Hilda Gibson. Chris Ridley wrote: *"I would certainly be with you all on the 20th if I could, but only the day before you rang we'd booked a fortnight in Lanzarote returning on the 30th. It would have been good to meet up with the old boys of TVMM; it was Cyril along with Gordon Ralph, both of whom were also fine folk dancers, who was responsible for my joining TV and setting me on this lifetime's interest. I vividly remember Cyril driving me to our first Ring meeting in Thaxted. He was an active supporter of the labour party and worked all his life for The Mirror newspaper, and as my father was a staunch Conservative, there was always a certain suspicion in my family about my consorting with this riff-raff... But of course the morris rises above all that. I was at school with Cyril's son-in-law Tim Jones, a thoroughly good guy. It was cruel that his marriage to Jenny was so short; he died much too young. I'm glad I came up to Cyril's 90th; it has proven to be my last meeting with him, and I'll remember his "lifetime's best joke about Joyce and who was it? (Dammit, I haven't remembered it after all!) Some of the older men may remember Don Cook, a TV folk dancer who now lives in Staines. I have kept in touch with him and I passed on the sad news about Cyril to him. He sends regards to all who know him. Best wishes to all and hope Cyril gets a spirited send-off to that big Ring Meeting in the sky on the 20th."*



Sunday, Feb 2. Cobham Guide Camp. We were seen on Boxing Day by a source of new recruits who asked us to demonstrate Morris dancing to them. Unfortunately they were Girl Guides. John G. and John E. (plus some Countrysiders) duly obliged and they (the guides) learned very fast.

Friday, Feb 7. Bagman's Night Out at The Vecchia Roma. East Molesey. 22 turned out.

Feb 28 weekend. Dockenfield. Another practice weekend at Mellow Farm, concentrating on The President, and Withington and Horsham dances. Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Dick Keen, Edward Morris, Robert Peace, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Jon Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Steve Tovey, John Walsh and camp cook Jill Jones said that they would be there, and probably were. All the above with the exception of Tim, Robert and John W. were recorded in cartoon form on Graeme's daughter Hazel's commemorative dishcloth, along with Hazel, her brother James, Dave Dearsley, Tim Keen and Dennis Salt. There was Hogs Back beer as well as trips to local pubs. Some of us also watched the England-France rugby on Saturday afternoon at Dave's place.

Sunday, March 16. Cyril Smith Memorial walk from Newlands Corner.

Sat, April 12. Hocktide, Kingston. TVMM on their own. The Bishop Out of Residence, The Parish Church, The Financier and Firkin, The Market Place, tea at the Parish Church, outside the Bentall's Centre.

Tues, April 22. The Foley, with Countryside.

Sun, April 27. Lunchtime at the Stepping Stones, West Humble.

Monday, March 17. The Churchill Intercontinental Hotel, Portman Square. Two spots for Pfizer Pharmaceutical. The squad was: John Elkins, Mervyn Stanley, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Dave Dearsley, Fran Smith, Jamie Glaister, John Walsh, Steve Ashcroft, Steve Tovey, Malcolm Snowden, Paul Brooks, Mike Vardy.



May 2/5. Dungarvan Traditional Music Festival, near Waterford, Southern Ireland. Yateley MM had visited Dungarvan the year before but could not take up the offer of a sponsored place at the 1997 festival and passed the baton to Thames Valley. We travelled by various routes on various days and, amazingly, all arrived in time for the festival. The Thames Valley contingent was Dick Keen, John Elkins, John Walsh, Fran Smith, John Glaister, Dave Henderson (from Yateley), Jan Lucas, Jim Barclay, and (possibly) Jim Beard and Graeme

Thompson, plus a solid contingent of wives, daughters and other camp followers. We stayed in B&Bs and the Dungarvan Holiday Hostel.

The weekend was organised into Concerts, Workshops, Street Entertainment, Lectures and Story Telling in and around The Town Square and the pubs – there were 19 on the session trail.

John E. *“We had a great weekend in Ireland. The Guinness exceptional, and I thought the Paddy's Irish Whiskey chasers were marginally better than the John Powers, though I really needed a few more days to be sure. Very friendly people, great fish, excellent scenery, a modest amount of dancing, and a fascinating story telling session. Perhaps most amazing of all*



was

were the tobacco clouds filling every pub at head level, and the level of sound, which made it impossible to hear a band at the other end of the bar.”



Sat, May 10. Broadwood Day of Dance, Horsham. Broadwood D of D was excellent. King and Barnes really is an extraordinarily good brewery isn't it. The dancing wasn't bad either.

Sat, March 17. Graeme's Garden Party, Knaphill.

Tuesday, May 20. King William IV Mickleham with Ewell MM.

Sat, May 31. Esher/Walton. Edward's tour of The Wheatsheaf, Esher Green; the Esher Fair; Claremont Landscape Garden; The Swan, Walton.

Monday, June 2. An evening with East Surrey at The Penny Black, Leatherhead, and The Plough, Stoke d'Abernon.

Saturday, June 7. Siward's Tour. The Four Horseshoes, Chobham; Woking Town Centre; The Anchor, Pyrford Lock. Followed by **The Banqueting Hall, Whitehall. Round Britain Gala Dinner for Maritz Travel. £300.** John Walsh, Siward Glaister, John Glaister, Steve Tovey, Steve Ashcroft, Mick Jenkins, Edward Morris, Robin Cobb, Fran Smith volunteered for this one.

Wed, June 11. The Crown, Harmondsworth with GUM.

Friday, June 20. Siward's garden party.

Tuesday, June 24. The Royal Oak, Brockham, with Broadwood

Saturday, July 5. Andy's Harmondsworth Village Tour. The Five Bells, The Crown, The Great Barn for dancing and the craft fair, St. Mary's Flower Festival for tea and dancing. The Flower Guild chairman wrote: *"The Flower Festival went very well, the weather was brilliant and the dancers were a brilliant attraction for the visitors that saw and heard them. I personally loved the "Horse Man". Also thank you so much for donating your collection and a personal extra donation totalling around £100."*

Tuesday, July 15. Feathers Laleham, with Datchet.

Saturday, July 19. Claygate Flower Show.

Tuesday, July 29. Chertsey with Yateley MM. The Town Hall Tavern and The Vine.

Thursday, July 31. Jon Stanley's stag night in Dorking.

Tuesday, Aug 12. The Griffin, Claygate, with Greensleeves.

August, 22/25. Cotswolds weekend. Saturday: The New Inn, Coln St.Aldwyns's; The Keeper's Arms, Quenington; The Victoria, Eastleach; Eastleach Fete. Sunday: Procession from the Kings Head to the Mill; The Mill; The King's Head; The Roman Villa, Chedworth; Tea at Yanworth Village Hall; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth.

Wednesday, Sep 10. The Ship, Ripley with Pilgrim

Saturday, September 13. Yateley Day of Dance. 10 men went.

Tuesday, September 16 Claygate. The Foley, with Countryside.

Sep 27/28. John Glaister's Folk Weekend at Mellow Farm, Dockenfield. Sponsored by the London Guild of the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry. A weekend of Country, Playford, Morris, Sword, Rapper, Clog, American Square.

Wednesday, Oct 8. Laleham. TVMM and Countryside danced at The Feathers beer festival.

Saturday, October 25. TVMM Ale at Mellow Farm, Dockenfield.

Tuesday, November 11. The Foley.

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FOLEY ARMS, CLAYGATE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11th 1997

Present: Jim Barclay, Jim Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Graeme Thompson, Steve Tovey.

Thames Valley Roll of Honour. The Squire reminded the meeting of former members of the side who were now deceased - Peter Dashwood, Amnon Derrenberg, John Hall, Martin Jolly, Norman Keam, George Lawrence, Dick Mussen, Derek Paynter, Christopher Penton, Ted Perry, Cyril Smith, Gordon Smith, Phil Sylvester, Bill Tofts.

Treasurer's Report. In the Treasurer's absence the Bagman presented the accounts for 1997/98. Over the year the bank balance had risen from £862 to £1,282, largely because of income of £600 from two hotel dos, collections of £450 and the new (voluntary) subscriptions of £414. One worrying aspect of the year was the large subsidies paid by the side towards the instructional weekend, the Ale and the Yateley Day of Dance. These could possibly be reduced in future by more careful planning and by members making more accurate forecasts of their attendance.

Ragman's Report. The Ragman circulated his report for 1997/98. (Copy attached). Total expenditure for the year had been lower than in 1996/97 since there was still more than £500 worth of kit in stock. Sales for the year totalled £185.

Bagman's Report. The Bagman said that the main feature of the year had been the successful introduction of midweek dancing out, which had proved popular with the side. Apart from special events there had been 12 weekend fixtures - a mixture of Saturday and

Sunday events - and 10 midweek fixtures - mostly with other sides. This had relieved pressure on weekends, many of which had, for the first time, been deliberately left free. There had been a very enjoyable trip to Ireland for the Dungarvan festival and two lucrative hotel appearances. Nevertheless more potential fixtures than usual had been cancelled for a variety of reasons, but usually because of a lack of enthusiasm in the side. This had led to the side not dancing at the Ewell Day of Dance, for the Elmbridge Twinners, at One World, with Cup Hill, and for Weybridge Mariners. It had to be accepted that the number of active dancers and the level of enthusiasm of those still active were still falling. This was to some extent reflected in the decline in the number of traditional tours organised by members of the side.

Squire's Report. Several Changes All involved and influenced dancing standards. During my term I tried to emphasize the importance of being aware of the rest of the team and your part in that team. Looked to dance as a team. This is where the new dances with their different formations were a great help to me.

Dockenfield Spring Workshop. Was well supported. All worked hard. Enjoyable start to the dancing year. Horsham and Withington. Horsham in programme and Withington soon will be. Nancy [Lucy?] has impressed on Dancing out. We need at least another dance from each tradition.

Dockenfield Autumn Ale. Not so well attended either by us or other teams. Possible re-think on format and invitation timing to other sides.

New Dances. Anxious that all members know them. No intention to be elitist. Not for a few. To keep them in the list need a minimum of ten people who can dance them since Dan Roberts requires eight confident dancers.

Dancing Out. Well attended. Will welcome any reactions to this policy later in meeting. Never short which should say something. Networking with other teams. Impressed by our range of dances. - List worked for me! Blank minds when I asked for dances. Complimented on our dancing and the spirit of the team. We seemed to be enjoying it.

Overseas trips. Thank the Squire of the day. Do we need to establish a travel policy if we are to have more trips?

Contract Hotel Do. Very impressive. Well performed and thank-you to those who came. Always ends on a friendly beer.

Feeling was that we enjoyed our dancing. We have sharpened up and not too many complaints were heard about being too old. If so then pack it in. Still work for next year's Squire. No difficulties in getting people to dance. Thank-you.

Thank music – John G. Great to have more music on several occasions. Jan, Graeme, Jim.

Enjoyed my term - Grateful thanks to all those who supported me and TVMM.

Election of Officers.

Treasurer. Robin Cobb was elected unopposed. Ragman. Edward Morris was re-elected unopposed. Bagman. John Elkins was re-elected unopposed. Squire. Steve Tovey was elected unopposed.

Other Business.

Practice night. Several suggestions for improving practices were made. These included limiting the number of Tuesdays given over to dancing out in the Summer (because we need the practice), starting and stopping practices earlier, scheduling some practice nights for advanced practice (to attract more experienced members), reserving certain practice nights for nominated (in advance) traditions. The incoming Squire agreed to consider these suggestions.

Membership subscriptions. It was agreed to retain the system of voluntary subscriptions with a recommended level of £10.

Fixtures. A suggestion to appoint a fixtures secretary was not accepted, but the Bagman agreed to farm out more fixtures to members, who could, if they wished, encourage members to turn up. It was also agreed to shorten the period of the year in which Tuesday dancing out would be arranged.

Membership. Everybody agreed that there was a desperate need for more recruits. Fran Smith said that he intended to devote time this year to membership schemes. A brochure would be prepared as soon as the fixtures list was available.

Fixtures Meeting. This was arranged for December 2nd.

John Elkins, Bagman, 24-12-97

Tuesday, December 2. Fixtures Meeting at The Foley.

December 12/16. Zuidlaren Festival. The De Grunneger Daansers from Zandeweer in northern Holland saw us perform in Krov and invited us to their Christmas festival in Zuidlaren, which included a Holiday Fair and a Dance Festival, called Berend Botje, after a local seafarer called Lodewijk van Heiden – for obvious reasons. They provided free accommodation, three meals a day and 1,500 florins towards travelling costs. The main party booked to fly from Gatwick to Schipol, and then by train to Groningen, but a fire at Gatwick delayed the flight until Saturday morning. This wasn't disastrous but it led to Mike Vardy nearly cleaning out John Elkins' stock of Bishop's Finger on Friday night. Dick and Shelley Keen travelled by car.

The main event was a Christmas Fair, with several tourist companies advertising holidays, and we danced on a stage to entertain the punters. There were also groups from Russia, Norway, Italy and Turkey, although the Russians said they came from Minsk, which is in Belarus. They actually invited us to visit them there, but the thought of travelling by Belarus Airlines put us off somewhat. The Norwegians also invited us, but we didn't take up either offer. The Italians were rather sulky and didn't talk to us much.

We had a fine time dancing on Saturday and Sunday in what resembled an aircraft hangar but was actually the Prins Bernhardhoeve, including at least one dance where we abandoned wavers and used cheer leaders' pompoms which we found in a box on the stage.

Our Dutch hosts were, as usual, extremely friendly. John Elkins and Paul Goddard stayed with a family in Roodeschool, near the north coast, where the husband revealed over

breakfast that his house was below sea level, over the biggest gas field in Europe (which was gradually sinking) and surrounded by pigs.

Random memories:

- *The only beer worth drinking in the hangar was Quist (Ijsbeer). John E still has the T-shirt.
- * Several local shops displayed Olleke Bolleke signs, and the Dutch word for marbles appeared to be Knackers. [Angus Stewart later revealed that Olleke Bolleke doesn't mean anything, that it's just a bid of nonsense verse for Dutch children like Hickory Dickory Dock. Pull the other one Angus. Those Dutch are deeper than you think. And didn't you know that nursery rhymes usually hide some deep meaning?]
- * After one session in the hangar TVMM retired to a rain-lashed café where, amazingly, Chris Ridley forgot all the tunes he had reserved for a music session, but that was his only chance. It was a quiet, friendly weekend, rather than a boisterous, boozy Krov affair.
- * Jim Barclay and John Walsh were billeted in the same, rather dour, no-English-spoken farmhouse where there was only the one double bed.



The TVMM party was: Jim Barclay, Robin and Rona Cobb, Angela Coombs, John Elkins, Hugh and Hilda Gibson, John Glaister, Siward Glaister, Paul Goddard, Jill Jones, Dick and Shelley Keen, Edward Morris, Chris and Janet Ridley, Fran and Jan Smith, Mike Vardy, John Walsh.

Friday, December 26. Boxing Day, Claygate. The Swan, The Foley, The Hare, The Winner, The Griffin. Collection £381.37, 4 Austrian schillings, two chocolate pennies.

1998 LOG

January 4, Mark Jones announced he'd given up dancing.

February 13. Bagman's Pleasure. Blubeckers, Shepperton. Tim and Mary Sharp, Paul Goddard, Alan and Linda Goddard, Edward and Maureen Morris, Fran and Jan Smith, Robin and Rona Cobb, John and Linda Elkins, Graeme and Linda Thompson, John and Linda Walsh, Andy and Jane Melville, John and Maggie Farrant, Dick and Sheila Keen, Mervyn Stanley.

FAREWELL TO JOHN GLAISTER



John Glaister died in his sleep early in February after several months of increasing health problems. TVMM danced for him at Weybridge Hospital on the night before he died. His cremation was at Woking, St.John's. TVMM attended and assembled afterwards at the Cricketers on Horsell Common.

Peter Jones wrote,

“The most striking thing about John's funeral, was not the very large number of friends and relatives in attendance, not the diversity of his interests represented, not even the quality of the music dance and song but the extraordinary sense of celebration of his life. It is not uncommon to give lip service to our intention to celebrate rather than mourn but on this occasion we really achieved it spontaneously while our collective sense of personal loss had no need of demonstration. John gave immeasurably to 'The Morris' by way of his music and his detailed knowledge of the art and his unfailing support. Perhaps his relaxed and invariably happy demeanour passively educated us to say our farewells and thanks for his comradeship with joy rather than tears.



Well in excess of a hundred people attended, including Morris Men from Thames Valley, Broadwood, Greensleeves, East Surrey, Yateley, Faithful City and John's special pride the 'Countryside Ladies Morris'. Many long standing friends from 'The Order of Woodcraft Chivalry', Forest School Camps, and others joined the throng of relatives and friends from past and present. Dennis Salt conducted affairs with his customary calm, orchestrating the various musical happenings which were led by Barbara Porter, Mervyn and Jan, the songs by Digger, Graeme & daughters and Jan/Muff/Graeme in harmony and recollections notably by Siward and John Pringle. Naturally, the assembled throng combined to give a lusty performance of 'Lord of the Dance' and 'Will ye go Lassie go' the whole being



interspersed with quiet periods for reflection and comment on John's deeds and



accomplishments. The proceedings were started with 'The Arise Song' led by Jon Vear and as is proper, concluded with 'The Morris Call' drawing the dancers outside for the continuation of the rites performed by at least fifty Morris dancers. Much dancing, drinking, munching and not too much melancholy followed at 'The Cricketers', Horsell for many hours during the afternoon as

acquaintances were renewed and recollections shared. It was surely all as John would have wished thanks in no small measure to Jill and Digger's thoughtful arrangements.

Thank you John.”

March?? Riverhouse Barn, Walton. John Walsh writes: *“Working from memory and, like all good TV men, failing to read the instructions, I got Linda and my mother to the Riverhouse Barn in Walton so early that the lady in charge hadn't opened the doors yet. There then followed a nail-biting wait to see if anything resembling a side would appear, complicated by frequently losing count as people arrived and then disappeared to the pub next door. As it happened, we had the ideal turn out.*

We were to open the show 'on stage' in the auditorium. We put on a brief and noisy performance for the packed house of alarmed and puzzled people who thought they had paid to see a one-man show by Chris Harris - the musings of Will Kemp as he danced the Nine Daies Wonder in 1599. Among others, we did Hey Away On, to which Fran called an abrupt halt and Young Collins (Odd) which had the management in tears on account of their parquet floor (we were gentle, if noisy). We finished with the Upton, which left the stage littered with little bits of wood and was quite exciting (from their wide eyes and open mouths) for the people in the front row - well the space was quite limited and they were sitting down with nowhere to hide. All in all, I thought we did pretty well.

As for the real show, Chris Harris was excellent entertainment. He had us enthralled throughout and in stitches for much of the time. He wasn't unnecessarily rude about Morris men either. You might be interested to know that the Morris fraternity (the Ring, I presume) are planning to have a re-run of the Nine Days (spell as you will) Wonder to mark the millenium and I guess we will be given the chance to join in. Odd that they seem to be talking about doing it in 2000, since next year will be the 400th.”

March 13-15, Dockenfield Instructional Weekend. With Hogs Back beer.

Saturday, April 18. Hocktide, Kingston. “Not a bad day”. Lunch at The Ram. We had permission to dance twice in the Market place, but not in the Apple Market. We danced at the Parish church.

Sunday, May 3. Presidential Memorial Walk. Mervyn Stanley wrote: *“This was a joint venture organized by Tim Cawdron and myself. A natural process of delegation took place with Tim making the major strategic decisions such as 'We are having a walk on 3. May 1998' I was then left with the lesser tactical decisions such as where it should be; what time*

to start, how to get people to come, where to eat, where to park, produce maps, etc. I hope that you will recognize the true value of organization and delegation. Key words for the exciting times in which we live.

Amazingly we all met outside Holmbury St. Mary's YHA on time totally shattered by Angela's multi-coloured tights which I was assured would "be an aid in our rescue should we become lost." Luvvy Tuvies, plus reluctant son who would have preferred to have been at a sleepover but was not invited, gathered for the off. At this point I was already having problems with Mike Vardy who insisted on exposing his map 'cos he was none too sure that I knew where I was going. Better safe than excited Mike!

Onto Holmbury Hill where Robin and I entered into animated conversations about Barqate and Sandgate stone which cap the area and when asking why there were so many lumpy bits were told coldly by Mike V. (him of the map) "It was a hill fort". Francis got very excited when we saw a very young female roe deer galloping ferocious before us. You really must control these urges Fran.

Descended onto the clay outcrops- more geological explanations but with this the flower people came into their own. Between here and the Bull's Head at Ewehurst Rhona and Angela were called upon to help with our inadequate identification of the many superb plants which we encountered. Between plant identification Fran, as usual, told us all about himself and brought us all up to date with the marvels and lost or possibly ignored wonders of Ash. The Bulls Head advertised itself as 'Open All Day' so our squire plus reluctant son and lovely wife were not particularly, happy when a democratic decision was taken by Malcolm not to wait twenty minutes until the place opened (what happened to all day) and press on to the lunch stop. He made up for this error with his batch of current jokes told in his unique style.

More geological changes and so more flora changes with the benefits of a row of orchids. More camaraderie, jokes, explanations and information before we reached the WindMill pub for lunch. At the Bulls Head the fellow with the map (him what plays golf and is worried about what we are doing to Morris dancing) suggested that according to his map it was only a short walk to the lunch stop and we could be there before opening time. Mike! maps are not good on slopes and my timing was spot on. Got to the pub before the locals - we really are very good walkers as well as talkers - and enjoyed good food but Robin would insist that the beer was far too strong for those out putting boot to path. For me strong beer numbs the pain of the blisters and the torn muscles.

We proudly announce that before we sank into an advancing soporific haze we all willingly drank to the fond memory of all those members of the side who are no longer able to be seen on tour and were happy to drink to the particular memories of Johnny Hall, Cyril Smith and John Glaister.

Robin explained the intricacies of the quarry on Pitch Hill and the last I remember is the lovely pint of TEA at the HurstWood Inn. I believe that I got home in time for the Rugby. L.Irish you really are a bunch of Kamakasies! (or is that pansies).

Friday, May 15. Hilton Hotel. We earned £425 for dancing at a Country Fayre Theme reception and buffet for Avon. Jan Lucas, Jim Barclay, Mervyn Stanley, Mick Jenkins, John Elkins, Paul Brooks, Steve Tovey, Fran Smith, Mike Vardy were there.

Saturday, May 16. Linda Thompson's Spring Toad Hall Tour. Cup Final Day at The Castle, Ottershaw; Opening of Linda's Toad Hall Nursery, Brox Road; The Fox and Flowerpot, Goldsworth Park; Tea at Thompson Acres, Knaphill; The Cricketeres, Horsell; The Robin Hood, Knaphill.

Friday, May 22. Grosvenor Hotel. Round Britain Dinner. £325. John Elkins, Jan Lucas, Fran Smith, Dave Dearsley, Paul Brooks, Malcom Snowden, John Hall, Mike Vardy, Steve Tovey. John E: *"The organiser wanted us to sit patiently from 8.00 until 9.30, waiting for our turn to dance, without going to the pub. I soon sorted her out. She hoped that we wouldn't be rowdy when we returned from the pub. What she didn't know was that when he took his first step onto the ballroom floor Squire Luvvy would go arse over tit, leaving the lovely Mike Vardy to lead us through something or other. I don't remember what because I was at the back polishing off some bots of wine with the Welsh Guards and the waitresses. A good evening."*

Tuesday, May 26. The Feathers, Laleham. Another good evening, including a version of the Upton Stickie danced with logs from the publican's fire because Dick the Stick hadn't turned up.

Tuesday, June 9. The Anchor, Bankside. £325. Fran Smith, Paul Brooks, Jan Lucas, Dick Keen, Mervyn Stanley, Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, Malcolm Snowden, Mike Vardy (?Steve Tovey, Siward, John Hall?).

Saturday June 13. Edward's Tour. Prince of Wales, West End, Esher; Princess Alice Hospice Fete; Claremont Landscape Garden; The Swan, Walton.

Tuesday, June 16. Old Red Lion, Staines. We danced with Datchet.

Sunday, July 5. Claygate. Wingham Court Home Fete.

Wednesday, July 8. Staines. The Bell and the Angel, with Pilgrim.

July 13. This is a Serious Newsletter. From the Bagman. Most of you will know by now that we didn't go to the Chipping Campden Ring Meeting, because I thought that the side available to go was too small - only six dancers- and not good enough to represent TVMM at a Ring Meeting. What you may not know is that Chipping Campden, backed by the Ring, have asked us, along with some other late withdrawers, to pay in full, even though we didn't go, because we cancelled late. I totally agree with their attitude, but I wish they hadn't picked this event as the one to take a stand on.

What happened with Chipping Campden is symptomatic of this whole season.

*We no longer have enough regular, good dancers to be able to assume that we'll always have a side for whatever we want to do.

*Even when we have enough dancers there's no guarantee that the side will be good enough to give those dancing - and the audience - a good time.

*No one is to blame for this. Morris dancing is a voluntary hobby which we're supposed to enjoy. If not enough of us want to do it, it won't happen. As some of you know, I don't think we should twist people's arms to dance. However we should all bear in mind that the club needs all of us to pitch in if it is to survive.

There are several consequences: Chipping Campden have asked us to pay up £400, 10 men times £40 each. I don't think this is avoidable, but you may wish to debate it. We could

argue that only seven were finally down to go and they must have saved some food; I don't propose to accept invitations to any other paying events until I have a full set of names, who have all paid a significant deposit, say 50%; We - Steve and I - will have to be much more rigorous about policing the quality of sides we put out for grand occasions. I know all this goes against the grain for TVMM - well, tough. From where I'm sitting many of the events which I really enjoyed doing - Broadwood Day of Dance, Ewell Day of Dance, etc are disappearing over the horizon because we struggle to raise a side. It only needs one or two of our regulars not to be around and we might as well be Spring Grove - the incredible shrinking Morris side. And, to be frank, the quality of dancing suffers in consequence. We no longer have the luxury of saying "Let's dance a certain dance - Who's in?" These days it's more often, "What dances do all six of us know - we'll have to dance them." – John Elkins

Saturday, July 18. Claygate. Lunchtime at the Griffin followed by the Claygate Flower Show.

Tuesday, July 21. Thorpe Green. The Rose and Crown with Countryside.

Saturday, August 1. Tour Smith. The Cider House, Shackleford; The Good Intent, Puttenham; The Hog's Back Brewery; The Bricklayer's Arms. Ash; Bar BQ at 41 Star Lane.

Tuesday, August 11. The Stepping Stones, Dorking. With Broadwood MM.

August 15/16. Digger's weekend.

Tuesday August 25. The Feathers, Laleham.

August 29/30. The Cotswolds. Saturday: The New Inn, Coln St. Aldwyn's; The Victoria, Eastleach; Eastleach Fete; The King's Head, Withington. Sunday: Procession to The Mill; The Kings Head; The Roman Villa; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth.

Tuesday, Sep 8. The Jolly Farmers, Worplesdon, with Yateley MM.

Saturday, Sep 19. Yateley Day of Dance. Siward Glaister, John Walsh, Mervyn Stanley, John Hare, Fran Smith, Mick Jenkins, Dick. [maybe Malcolm Snowden, Steve Tovey, Mike Vardy, Robin Cobb.]

September 25/27. Dockenfield. Jim Barclay organised this year's Dockenfield Folk Festival. TVMM did not provide a side.

Wednesday, October 7. Laleham. Beer festival at The Feathers with Datchet MM.

October 16/18 weekend in Somerset. Chalice Morris, 25th Anniversary Weekend. The following volunteered. Fran Smith, Jan Lucas, Mike Vardy, John Elkins, Paul Goddard, Edward Morris, Peter Jones. Possibly also Siward Glaister and Dick Keen. Friday evening: singing, music and general reminiscing session at the Puriton Inn. Saturday: Morris tour of the local area starting at Bridgwater College. Ale at the College. Sunday: Noon, The Queens Arms, Bleadon, then to Shiplett Court Farm to plant and dedicate an oak tree in memory of Fr. Kenneth.

Tuesday, October 20. Claygate. Steve Tovey organised an open evening at the Foley to try to attract some new members.

Tuesday, November 11. The Foley. - AGM. {No copy of the minutes found}

From the newsletter: *“The AGM was unusual, and a little unpleasant. There was a lot of criticism of the way Steve had been running things as Squire but no-one stood against him at election time. “We don’t like the way you do it but we don’t want the job”, just about summed it up. It was only several days after the meeting, being a slow starter, that I got angry about the unfairness of it. For what it’s worth I thought that the only person to come out of the meeting with credit was Steve, who behaved in a very dignified way in the face of the death of a thousand cuts.*

The nub of the criticism was that the club isn’t what it used to be, doesn’t dance as well as it used to, doesn’t have the old style - whatever that was. Can’t be denied that that’s all true but, as Steve said, he didn’t ask to be Squire, and having accepted the job he’s worked very hard at it in a difficult year with shrinking resources. There are some aspects of Steve’s way of doing things that I don’t like but, in the end, you’ve either got to go with the bloke who’s prepared to slog his way through the year or find a replacement. All the officers were re-elected without opposition, so it’s time now to shut up and get on with the next year.

Tuesday, December 8. Fixtures meeting at The Foley.

Saturday, December 26. Claygate. Boxing Day Tour: The Swan, The Foley, The Hare, The Winner, The Griffin. £244 collected.

1999 LOG

Tuesday, Jan 12. The Foley. An Open Evening for Beginners. Little response.

Sunday, March 21. Ranmore Common. Walk and pub lunch with Countryside.

Wednesday, March 24. The Feathers, Laleham.

April 9/11. Dockenfield. Instructional and Ale.

Saturday, April 17. Hocktide, Teddington.

Monday, May 3. Siward's Tour. The Anchor, Wisley; The Plough, Byfleet; Byfleet Village Day; Tea at Siward's; The Four Horseshoes, Chobham; The Castle, Ottershaw.

Saturday, May 8. Horsham. Broadwood Day of Dance.

Sunday, May 16. President's Memorial walk. Steve Tovey organised a 7-mile walk from Hare Lane, Claygate to The Bear, Oxshott, The Star, Malden Rushett, and back to The Foley.

Monday, May 24. Ripley. The Ship with JackStraws.

June 4/6. Thaxted Ring Meeting. Siward Glaister, Peter Jones, Dick Keen, Paul



Goddard, Robin Cobb, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, Jan Lucas, Steve Tovey, Chris Ridley, [??Alan Goddard, Mervyn Stanley, Mike Vardy??]. Chris Ridley wrote: *"I was delighted to be part of Thames Valley Morris Men at the Thaxted Ring Meeting, and this note is to say thank you to all those present for their welcome, and to thank the club for the gift of the feast. I was especially pleased to be the*

musician for TV's show-dance – Lucy of Lyne – which was very well danced as far as I could see, and well-received. I was also the musician for the Sunday show-dance, Valentine, which again seemed to me to be very well danced."

Also there was Shag Graetz from Pinewoods MM of Boston, USA, who wrote: *"I was pleasantly surprised to see that Thames Valley would be at Thaxted this year. So will I. As a sort of revenge for not having been able to go to England with my team (Pinewoods) last year, I'm taking several weeks off for a solo visit beginning 12 May. I've already made sure that I will have a place at Thaxted. As it happens TVMM are the only team familiar to me in this year's list. Would you object if I tagged along with you for the Saturday tour? I seem to recall*



(from our 1992 visit) that we had a few dances in common. Please give my regards to Fran Smith and to Siward and Jen Glaister, who gave me much more hospitality than I had a right to expect in '92. Martin (Shag) Graetz."

Tuesday, June 8. The Castle, Ottershaw, with Countryside.

Tuesday, June 22. Chertsey. The Vine.

Saturday, June 26. Paul Goddard's Tour. The Running Horses, Mickleham; The Stepping Stones, West Humble; The Cock Inn, Headley.

Monday, June 28. Datchet festival.

July 2-5 - Krov The usual routine. A grovelling letter from the Bagman – in January 1998 - resulting in an invitation to the 1999 Trachtentreffen. We travelled by coach supplied by Countryliner driven by Dave Pink (Dave the Prat), who started off on the right foot by asking John Elkins at the pick-up point (Siward's House) "Where's this place Krov then?" We travelled P&O from Dover to Calais and got to Trier in time for breakfast.

There was again a mixture of free schoolroom floor accommodation and more classy B&Bs for those paying for it. Free canteen meals were provided for active participants only, supplemented by the delicious currywurst to be bought at the hygienic stall near the wine shack, and chips and doner kebabs.

Our schedule was **Friday: 1930** at the Abholung der Mosella in the Festival Tent along with various German, Swiss, Mongolian and Slovak groups.

Saturday: 1445 In the tent again. **1600** General get together for all groups outside the town hall. "I seem to remember that there are speeches. I also remember that the bars don't close while it's going on." **Sunday: 1200** The tent again. **1400** Procession through the town, between the Heimatkundlicher



Arbeitskreis Linden, and Musikverein Dreis. **2130** On the raft. Plus free form dancing around the town in between drinking sessions, a winetasting at the Trossen's (to benefit from the coolness of the cellar during the blistering heat) and a dance at the old folks home.



The Squad was: The School; Jim Barclay, Angela Coombs, Dave Dearsley, John Elkins, Paul Goddard, Jill Jones, Dick and Shelley Keen, Jan Lucas and Royal Borough Steve, Steve Tovey, Phil Underwood and Robbie, Mike Vardy. B&B: Robin Cobb, Kate Elkins and Dave Sheppard, Siward and Jenny Glaister and Hilary Edgerley, Allan Goddard and Pauline, Martin Kiff and Dorritt, Nick and Tim Langston, Edward and Maureen Morris and Cheryl Whittington, Nick and Ann Oliver, Chris and Janet Ridley, Fran and Jan Smith and Alan and Caroline Hutton.

Did Graeme Thompson turn up? Dave Dearsley arrived without any shoes in a vain attempt to avoid dancing, but he was encouraged to buy some. [Nice try Dave, but you knew it wouldn't work, didn't you?].



In the blistering heat of the procession we asked some gardeners to turn their hoses on us, while the musicians hid their instruments away from the sprinkle. We repeated this twice more. There was a long-awaited head-to-head between Chris Ridley and Phil in the wine-shack [opinion is still divided about who won].

The two Langston boys did us proud at the Sunday morning church service on the floating stage. Suffice it to say, in the words of Ortsburgmeister Elmar Trossen, that *"es waren schone und harmonische Festtage"*. And a special mention to Jim Barclay, who managed to stay up (even if not actually awake) several hours past his usual bed time of 6.30.

On the way back Dave the Prat asked us where he should leave the French motorway to make sure he didn't break driving time regulations and ended up taking us to a small supermarket in a small town where he tried unsuccessfully to get free booze from the manager while we got coffee from a machine. Eventually he took us to a wine warehouse near the Ferry. After warning us not to buy too much booze he



appeared with a large shopping trolley overflowing with the stuff – for his personal use, of course.

The following week Pia Leister from the Tourist Office wrote: *“Hello Mr. Elkins, now that our this years festival is over, we want to give you our thanks for your participation. We think that again it was a great festival. All the folkloric groups were wonderful and gave their best. We think that all the participants as well as the several thousand guests and the people of Krov had some fantastic days here. We want to thank you again and are looking forward to seeing you again here in Krov in the coming years.*

We are sorry but we have one problem. It is that the 3 persons (one couple and a lady) which staid at "Hilde Schnitzius-Neidhofer, Moselweinstrasse" did not pay. I think it was a mistake by Mrs. Schnitzius-Neidhofer, because she did not give them the bill. Please be so kind to contact this people and tell us how to arrange this.”
Nice one Siward.

Saturday, July 10 Wantage. The Ickniel way Day of Dance. Mervyn Stanley (music), John Elkins, Dick Keen, Nick 'n' Tim Langston, Edward Morris, Fran Smith, John Hare, Jan Lucas, Siward Glaister(?), Robin Cobb and Steve Tovey enjoyed a fine day's dancing including extended ogling of the young, blonde musician from Mr. Hemmings. John Elkins: *“The Ickniel Way day of dance at Wantage was also good, I thought, not so much because of the high standard of our dancing (cough, cough) but because of sharing the day with the Ickniel old boys, who didn't worry much about kit, and had only danced about once in the last fifteen years by all accounts. Their dancing was a lesson to all of us who have been aiming for the enthusiastic agricultural style over the last fifteen years.”*

Thursday, July 15. West Horsley. The Barley Mow, with Fleur de Lys. Fran Smith, John Elkins, Steve Tovey, John Hare, Jim Barclay, Edward Morris, Nick Langston, Mike Vardy, Dick Keen.

Saturday, July 17. Claygate Flower Show.

Friday August 6 - The Foley. We performed for a Bar-B-Q evening.

Saturday August 7- Magical Mystery Coach Tour. The John Glaister memorial coach tour was a joint TVMM/Countryside do (although Jill Jones did all the organising). By coach from Woodham to The Cherry Tree, Stoke Row; The Carriers Arms, Watlington; The Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Chinnor; Tea at Tim Cawdron's, Princes Risborough; The Shepherd's Crook, Crowell. The TVMM party was Lester Bailey, Tim Cawdron, Robin and Rona Cobb, John Elkins, Siward Glaister, Allan Goddard, Dick Keen +1, Nick Langston (or was it Tim?), Edward and Maureen Morris, Fran and Jan Smith and Mervyn Stanley.

Saturday August 14. Fran's Tour. The Cricketers, Pirbright; The Royal Oak, Pirbright; Brewery Tour and dance at the Hog's Back Brewery; Tea and hot dogs at 41 Star Lane.

August 21/22 - Digger's weekend. Centred on Exton House Hotel, Dulverton.

Details never emerged, except on the day for those who were there. It was something to do with Jim Barclay's 60th birthday.

Mid-August. John Elkins: *"Just to prove that we don't really need musicians, I can reveal that I danced a jig (Nelson's Praise I think) and, with the only other English representative, sang Ten Green Bottles, and Ten Men Went to Mow in English and German for a party of German gas industry blokes and journalists in Bergen last week - with only hand-clapping for accompaniment. The Germans (from Leipzig) really knew how to enjoy themselves, with lots of old-fashioned singing over dinner, from about 7.30 until 2.00 a.m."*

August 28/29 - The Cotswolds. Saturday: The Sherborne Arms, Northleach; The Plough Inn, Cold Aston; Tea in the village hall at Compton Abdale, after dancing in the village square (crossroads) by arrangement with the Village Chairman (his name was Richard Lord, and he called himself the head honcho); The Kings Head. Sunday: Procession to The Mill; The Kings Head; The Roman Villa; Tea and dancing in the road at the village hall, Yanworth; The Seven Tuns, Chedworth.



Saturday, Sep 11. Yateley Day of Dance. John Elkins, Fran Smith, Malcolm Snowden, Mervyn Stanley, Robin Cobb, Nick 'n' Tim Langston, Siward Glaister, John Hare, Steve Tovey.

Saturday, September 18. Tunbridge Wells. Jan Lucas, John Hare, Steve Tovey, Dick Keen, Fran Smith, John Elkins, Edward Morris, Robin Cobb, Paul Brooks attended the Royal Borough Morris 25th Anniversary Ale, and danced at Bough Beech (or Tunbridge Wells), Hever Castle (or Penshurst Place), the Tunbridge Wells Pantiles, and then the Ale at Uplands Community College, Wadhurst.

Saturday October 2. Byfleet Village Hall. John Hall, Steve Tovey, John Elkins, Robin Cobb, Paul Brooks, Jan Lucas, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley performed for a wedding reception. *“Thank you again for the splendid performance by the Thames Valley Morris Men. It was appreciated by our English, Norwegian and Canadian guests. My Canadian sister, Sally Deutschmann, has sent the enclosed photo for you, which she hopes you will like. (It was blown up from a shot taken by one of those little throwaway cameras.) Susan Falck-Therkelsen.”*

Wednesday, October 20. Sendmarsh. Ale Tasting at The Saddlers Arms. TVMM, Countryside and others in Victorian costume assembled at Croxteth Hall, and processed to the Saddlers Arms, for dancing and a certain amount of free food and drink, provided by Lieutenant-Colonel Molyneux-Child, the Lord of Dedswell and Papworth. This was the first of many such events organised by “The Colonel” until his death in 2015.

Tuesday, November 23. The Foley

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Present: Jim Brooks, Paul Brooks, Tim Cawdron, Robin Cobb, John Elkins, Siward Glaister, John Hare, Peter Jones, Dick Keen, Jan Lucas, Fran Smith, Mervyn Stanley, Steve Tovey, Mike Vardy.

Ragman's report: Edward pointed out (by proxy) that the rag cupboard was well stocked, except for hats. He noted that 2002 would be the club's 50th birthday and asked for suggestions about special items of kit to mark the occasion. He thanked Jenny Jones for her kit-making efforts. Income in the year had been £180.98, Expenditure £129.76. Mervyn volunteered to go to Luton to identify and buy new hats.

Treasurer's report: Robin revealed that the club's bank balance had increased by £240.59 to £2380.55 over the year. The bulk of income (£680.35) came from tours, with Boxing Day contributing £244, the Cotswolds £125, and the Claygate Flower Show £120. There had been no hotel bookings, but a wedding had yielded £100. Expenditure had been £1,037, of which £466 had been spent on subsidising tours, more than half on the trip to Krov. The hire of the Foley Hall had cost £220. Next year (i.e.1999/2000) the hall would be free, but the following year a charge would again be made, almost certainly at a higher rate, following redecoration and refurbishment. It was agreed to retain the (voluntary) membership charge at £10 for the year 1999/2000. The Treasurer will be happy to receive your contributions soonest.

Bagman's report: A surprisingly active season, including Krov, Thaxted, Dockenfield, a coach tour, a wedding and dancing with several other sides. The increasing flow of last minute cancellations had been stemmed, apart from the weekend with Chalice, very frustrating because we had an experienced side lined up to dance with them when they cancelled, and the Bagman's Night Out. In all there were about 25 events, most of which were

able to take place because of the enthusiasm of the newer members - which is the way it should be.

Squire's report: Steve mentioned thin numbers but enthusiastic dancing from those who turned up. His phased programme of covering most of the TVMM current repertoire in practice had been reasonably successful, and had got the newer members acquainted and reasonably familiar with our core repertoire.

Elections: Steve stood down as Squire and was thanked by everyone for his two-year stint. John Elkins was elected Squire, and also agreed to carry on as Bagman, there being no other candidates. Robin Cobb agreed to continue as Treasurer, although he pointed out that he was planning to move away from London, perhaps during 2000. Edward Morris agreed (in absentia) to continue as Ragman.

John Elkins December 14 1999

A Manifesto from the Squagman Well, I guess I'd better say something about being Squire and Bagman for next year. Having been elected, I'll now publish a manifesto.

- 1) I now know how Steve Tovey must have felt when the awful realisation dawned on people that there was no-one else they could ask to be Squire who would accept. In my case I also realised that there didn't seem to be anybody itching to be Bagman. So I said yes because there didn't seem to be any other option. I think having a joint Squire and Bagman (Squagman) is a pretty poor idea, but if nobody else wants to do the jobs we're stuck with it. As I said at the AGM, there's no point pushing someone to take over either of the jobs if they don't want to do them.
- 2) I don't actually expect much to change next year. I'll choose a few traditions to be our core repertoire for the year, plus a healthy number of stick dances, perhaps some new ones. As far as the teaching goes I intend to rely heavily on the old timers who come to practice (a vanishing breed), although I shall of course say a few things myself.
- 3) I do not intend, nor would I be able, to attend every practice and every tour. I don't see that as a problem, since if I'm not going to be there, I shall make sure that someone else is in charge.
- 4) As to the quality of dancing, to be honest, I don't expect much to change. We have some keen trainees. I was going to call them novices, but they've been keeping the side going for the last two or three years, so I think that would be an insult to them. Unfortunately we are under threat of losing two of them - Robin is talking about moving into the country full time, and John Hare may be off to America to live. That would leave us desperately short on practice nights, and also on several of the public appearances which the old-timers don't want to attend. [It would also leave us short of a Treasurer.] Tim and Nick Langston are both at Durham University full time now, so although I hope to see a lot of them during the Christmas and Easter holidays, and next summer, they won't be able to practice much. Tuesdays could be lonely times.
- 5) What to do? We all know that getting new blood is crucial, but nobody seems to be able to do it. I've got no dramatic solution to offer, but I'm already talking to Martin about beefing up our (his) web-site. One other idea is that every time we dance out we must have publicity material to hand out, and there must be someone who will agree to pass it round and chat up the crowd. It's a lousy job if you don't like it, but maybe we'll all just have to take turns. Steve Tovey has put an Ad in the current Surrey Folk News, and we'll have to follow that up with more adverts/posters.

- 6) The old-timers are our biggest asset and our biggest problem. When enough of them turn out we can still put on a good show, but, to quote the Private Eye Christmas record of many years ago, "Christmas comes but once a year, and so do I", if you see what I mean. If each of them turned out one more time than they did last year we'd have a good chance of looking good more often.
- 7) Actually, our biggest asset is probably our musicians, who must despair at what they're asked to accompany during the season. Sorry chaps, but please keep plugging away, and I promise to let you play your really very interesting music at the King's Head - in the interludes between our sing-song.

Sunday, December 26, Claygate, Boxing Day. The Swan, The Foley, The Hare and Hounds, The Winning Horse, The Griffin. The photo shows Steve Tovey dancing out as Squire and John Ekins dancing in as Squagman at the Hare and Hounds.



