

1952

LOG OF

THAMES VALLEY MORRIS MEN.

Formed early in 1952, to dance for
Claygate Flower Show.

Cyril Smith, George Lawrence, Gordon Ralph,
Phillips Silvester, Bevis Colmer, John Glaister,
John Blanchflower were the Founder Members.

Music was supplied by Mrs. Dibbers - accordion
Martin Jolly - Fiddle.

I received a letter from Ted Perry saying
a meeting would be held in the Foley Hall
Claygate on October 24th 1952, to form a
morris side.

On attending I met the above people with
Ted Perry, Wilfred Morris, Christopher
Penton, Norman Peam, Norman Godwin.

Of these I had danced with John Glaister
prior to 1939, Ted of course during that
time and during war service, Christopher
Penton was a dancer and had been squire
of a team at St. Albans Hertfordshire.

1953

We practised as a side with various musicians
until our first public performance in
Staines Middlesex for old Folks in a
Twilight Home. Kathleen and Wendy with
my mother and father, sister and family
came to watch for their first time.

We added the Flamborough Sword Dance,
practising in Cyril Smith's garden.

55 Hare Lane, Claygate.

Our next performance was in Kingston at the Tiffins Boys School, a sweltering hot day. The first time a Fool, Bevis Colmer, turned out with us.

6th June, Claygate, Coronation celebrations. Danced during the summer on Weybridge Cricket Green, Addlestone Carnival, and with the Beac of London City Morris Men outside the Wheatsheaf, Ester Green. Country dancing was led many times by Cyril Smith, and John Flaister. Our own title was "Mid Surrey" morris men.

The inaugural meeting held May 1st 1953 proposed a change of title to "The Thames Valley" morris men.

We would pay 2/- contribution each practise evening a member attended.
Bagnan Elected, Cyril Smith.

Assistant Bagnan, George Lawrence.

Election a squire was postponed owing to Christopher Penton being ill. A letter would be sent wishing him a speedy recovery.

Present

Messrs. Lawrence, Ralph, Heam, Perry, Godwin, Morris, Thorpe, Silvester, Flaister, Smith, Brooks.

Signed
C. D. Smith.

Next meeting was held at the Foley Hall, Claygate.

Present

Messrs. Lawrence, Flaister, Silvester, Perry, Ralph, Heaven, Smith, Brooks. Christopher Penton was on holiday. Christopher Bridley, Ian Reid were welcomed into the side.

Resignations were received with regret, of Wilfred Morris thro' taking up other activities also Norman Godwin who was moving away from the district. The bag money had been well balanced during the year.

We were invited to practise in a school room at Newlands College, by the principle Mr. L. Constantines.

This was accepted and we would meet each Friday evening, when we will pay 1/- at each meeting attended. Our regalia will be.

White Fannels, Decorated Opera Hats, Uniform Baldriicks, Royal Blue and Gold, uniform Bell Pads.

As until now our uniform was Grey Fannels, with odd Baldriicks supplied by those who possessed them.

The "Curfews" and "Camping Club" colours were worn.

During 1954 some school girls straw hats were bought, and wives with girl friends made and decorated our uniforms. Kathleen made my own.

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Our first performance in full uniform was given at "Littlewick Green", near Maidenhead, 27 Feb.

Christopher Denton in his absence had been elected Squire. Number One dancer took his place which was shared by the three ex-Curfew members.

During the year Jigs were taught by various dancers.

May 4th we danced to gramophone records at a scouts fete in Church Road, Old Windsor, Berks.

A village fave on "Brookham Green" was attended by six dancers, one musician Martin Jolly, and I acted as Squire for the team, dancing at Number One's place.

During the year Chris Bridley, and the Squire learned to play Melodion and concertina, which was a "big help for dancing".

Philip Silvester's wife, Joyce, played the piano for practices.

I danced some Jigs for the "Children's Festival" held at Kingsmeyston school Kingston Hill, Surrey.

I was invited to teach our local "Cut Pack" Morris dancing. With the help of Kathleen I made a Hobby Horse,

a dress rehearsal with the Thames Valley men was held in the scout shack.

The first performance was given at

The "Scouts Shack" James Ditton, for
the Scouts own Fete.

The dances were.

Bean setting (Headington)
Rigs - O. Marlow
Fools Jig (Bampton.)

Sword Bearer with Ditton's Lucky
Doughnuts.

Hobby Horse, Fool and Old Betty.

This was on July 3rd 1954.

We attended our very first Ring Meeting
at Coventry, with Squire Penton.

Peter Dashwood and Brian Whitaker
joined us with Bill Tofts, later.

During the year Roy Duncombe, an
interested fellow, made a Hobby Horse,
which was first used on Boxing Day,
when we danced outside of the five
public houses in Claygate:-

The Winning Horse, The Griffin,
The Hare and Hounds, The Foley Arms,
and The Swan on the Green.

Collection money was shared by
C. F. D. S. S. and Claygate Village Hall
Fund.

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Several fellows were now playing various instruments, making us self supporting.

27th January 1955 admitted to the "Morris Ring"

30th April our first feast, or Morris Ale, held in Claygate British Legion Hall.
I danced "I'll Go and Enlist For a Sailor" with Ann Smedley "Beano",
Members attended from "Bear of London City", "East Surrey", "Greensleeves" teams.

Brighton Ring meeting May 7th

The team danced into the "Morris Ring" with "Constant Billy", "Headington" at Phaetted, May 20th 1955.

The "Ditton Cubs" danced for the "Kingston Thames Valley" district childrens festival. Jigs were danced by Cyril Smith and myself.

"Jockey To The Fair" Headington

"Ladies Pleasue" Bledington.

The team demonstrated for "West Surrey" Festival at Bradstone Brook.

London Ring Meeting 28th June, I acted as Squire, leaving Kathleen and Wendy on holiday at Highcliffe near Bournemouth.

The Bagman payed my expenses.

The Claygate Dramatic Society invited us to dance on a stage at St. Georges Hall E. here. The production was "Lady Audleys Secret." "Bobbing Joe" Bampton was danced.

A. G. M. 28th October.

Christopher Penton confirmed Squire Cyril Smith, George Lawrence Bagman.

2nd December I Jigged for the district young peoples Xmas Party "Ladies Pleaswee" Bledington.

"Sheperds Hey" Headington.

December 16th James Sowerby after much persuasion attended our practise at Claygate, it was a small "Ladies Pleaswee" evening.

Denis Salt and Michael Mouton joined us.

Whit Monday May 21st the team visited

Bampton - In - The - Bush and saw the traditional team dancing.

A. G. M. October 28th 1955 Christopher Penton signed

Boxing Day tour of Claygate was spoilt by rain.

1956 January 7th representatives meeting at Cecil Sharp House. The Squire and Bagman attended and proposed a Kingston Ring Meeting.

January 20th danced for patients at St. Georges Hospital London

Morris Ale at Foley Hall 24th March, the Squire of the Ring and some of "St. Albans" men were our guests, including "East Surrey" and "London Pride". Don Cassels was Squire.

Danced in Kingston April 28th.

21st May a good muster went to Bampton and then on to Headington and danced with the traditional team, William Nimber playing.

9th June, Norman Dean and I danced Jigs

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at the Childrens Festival, Kingsnympton
school Kingston Hill, "Bonnets So Blue"
from Bucknell, "The Nutting Girl" Field Town.
15th June we towed Somerset as far as
Bristol.

21st June, entertained at a trade union
function held in Wandsworth Town Hall,
many Russian delegates were present, and
Squire Penton announced speaking Russian.

6th July the Claygate Girl Guides hut was
brought to the ground. On the Saturday we
turned out and danced round Claygate,
collected £18, which was handed to the
captain, Phillis Lofthouse.

28th July danced for at Moeden for some
Norwegian tourists.

26th July danced for patients at
Halloway Sanatorium Virginia Water Surrey.

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15th September, Abingdon Berks. Ring meeting, we joined, Burton-On-Trent, Whitchurch and some ~~Newcastle~~ Newcastle men for the tour. Whilst dancing in Abingdon I was stopped by a policeman, who recognized me as his second cousin, Hilda Lobbs son Don.

22nd September a days course at C.S.H. learning the newly revived "Litchfield" in Staffordshire dancing. Which includes, Ring-O-Bells, Milley's bequest stick dances, and "Sheriffs Ride" handkerchief dance.

During the year we work very hard arranging our Kingston, Ring meeting. My job is to find accommodation for 150 men. Don Duncombe is on re-search for any known Kingston dances or costumes.

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2nd November the A. J. M. was held at Newlands College, where we practise.

The Cog reported was accepted, and a vote was taken on changing our white flannels for breeches, the result was 6 for and 6 against, the matter was referred back for another year. For some time I have been urging the side to learn the Rapper sword dances, but not very much interest is shown, especially by the older members, the minutes were signed by Christopher Denton.

Boscing Day Town was carried on in drizzling rain.

2nd February ¹⁹⁵⁷ an enjoyable evening at the Ravensbourne Ale, Beckenham

6th April our own Ale at the Foley Hall, guests were, East Surrey and some

City of Westminster men.

4th May danced at the May Day Celebrations for the "Woodcraft Chivalry" in Rochester Castle. A coach was laid on, so our families were able to come and see us filmed for television, which was shown the following week.

1st June we took part in Windsor Beeks.

Day of Dance, I met one of the Girl Guides who I used to teach country dancing to before 1939.

10th June the Whit Monday Towe, lovely hot day, at Cobham Surrey, we were joined by a boys team who were in excellent form, having been taught by a school teacher, danced at Hatchford school for disabled children.

15th June, carried out a number of

engagements. Glyn House, Ewell for the E.F.D.S. Weybridge scouts, Hampton E.F.D.S., Kingston Hospital Fete including country dancing for the operators. An unfortunate thing happened, the Jug-O-War teams drank all of our beer, whereupon the matron acquired some bottled beer and sandwiches. Carried on for an evening at "The Buttricker" Kingston, and "The Angel" at Jiggs Hill cricket green Thames Ditton.

22nd June danced for Chertsey E.F.D.S. and East Surrey Festival in Beigate.

28th June attended the Winchester Ring meeting. Their Squire Lionel ~~Bateman~~ Bacon was dancing when I met the movie at C.S.H. in 1936, society team.

29th June Childrens Festival at the

Dingshampton school, the Ditton Cubs once again performed with fresh boys in the team.

4th July danced at a Pageant in Hamworth Middlesoc.

6th July Cyril Smith was our only man to watch "The Beavers of London City" team dance at "The Wheatstack" on Ester Green.

13 July the West Surrey Festival Held indoors owing to bad weather.

17th July our first cancellation owing to bad weather, should be at Byfleet Fete.

20th July dance for our own St. Marys church garden fete and the district festival, both indoors owing to bad weather.

24th August a farewell tour for George Lawrence the assistant Bagman and fool

Finished at "The Angel" Thames Ditton, where we held an hilarious party and presented him with a set of Morris Books.

6th September, Cyril Smith was our only member to attend the Derby Ring meeting, he joined, Greensleeves, Westminster North Shelton and Hartley Essex men.

21st September 1954.

Our one day Ring meeting, because we simply could not find accomodation for men staying the week-end. We each went out in the morning to meet teams and dance with them back to Kingston. I was with Christopher Penton on tow "B." We drove to Watford and met the "St. Albans men" at "The Pond" High St. While dancing we were charged at by a Royal Mail van, everybody

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jumped clear. The Bedford men joined us before leaving. Music was led by Russell Worbley (Cambridge Morris Men) and Bagman of the Ring, player of Pipe and Tabac. St Albans men were led by Don Cassebs. Kings College team from Newcastle came. 150 men danced on the river Thames footpath at the Canbury Gardens.

The feast was held above the Regal Cinema and was attended by the Mayor of Idington (Miss Anderson) Alderman and Mrs. Lines. Mrs. Penton and Mr. Constantines as guests. Bill Cassie Squire of the Ring presided

7th October St. Matthews churd Tolworth.

18th October 1957 A. S. M. at Newlands College, a number of very nice letters from different sides saying how well they enjoyed our Spring Meeting.

We resolved to present to the Mayor a gift of £5. for Kingston Parish church, thus continuing the custom recorded in the ancient churchwardens accounts.

all officers re-elected.

a motion to include breeches in our costume again resulted in an even division, the matter is left open.

Minutes were signed by Christopher Penton.

Bosing Day tour, two sides turned out including George Lawrence now dancing with the Colchester men.