



***The
Gate to
Southwell***

1981 to 2010

The First Thirty Years

A Dolphin Archive Production

CHAPTER ONE



PRE 1981 GATE INFORMATION

1108

The White Book of Southwell was started in the 13th Century and is a compilation of copies or extracts from Charters, Papal Bulls, Archiepiscopal letters, Statutes, Grants of land to the Chapter and gifts to found chantries and extracts from Court Rolls. This compilation continued until about the 15th Century and is the work of various writers.

The earliest dated document in the compilation is the letter of Archbishop Thomas II dated about 1108 which allows the Pentecostal procession at Southwell instead of York. The translation says:

“Thomas, by the grace of God to all his parishioners of Nottinghamshire, greeting, in the blessing of the Lord, we pray you as most beloved sons, that in remission of your sins, you will help by the blessing of your alms towards the building of the Church of St. Mary of Southwell. And whosoever in the least degree shall give the smallest assistance, shall be to the end of time, a participator in all the prayers and blessings which shall be done in that and all our other Churches. And this ye ought to do more willingly, that we release you from the need of visiting each year, the Church of York, as all our other parishioners do; but instead you shall visit the Church of Southwell, and there have the same pardon that you have at York”.

1109

The Procession began when the Archbishop of York, Thomas of Beverley asked each parish to contribute towards the building of the Cathedral at Southwell and to make an annual procession thereto. There was also a meeting of the Synod to keep priests up to speed on church matters. Bob Hine has added, ‘I finally managed to get to the Archives this week [June 2009]. I have seen and photographed the famous White Book of Southwell. How's your Latin? I think that processione is procession but otherwise found it hard going. Fortunately there's a handwritten synopsis in English. The main thing I gleaned was that after the Pope wrote to Southwell in 1109 to confirm the Gate + pence, York wrote to the Pope asking for the same thing but not mentioning that the Pope had already granted the money etc to Southwell - a bit of mediaeval ecclesiastical skullduggery methinks. The Pope, forgetting the letter to Southwell replied OK. Naturally the folks in Southwell - who presumably were relying on the dosh to build duck ponds, clear their moats and generally support their second homes were a bit miffed and complained. To which the Pope replied God's teeth, sort the bloody thing out yourselves! Unfortunately the 1109 letter was destroyed in a fire at the Minster. Whether the Pope kept a photocopy, or whether York have a copy of their letter ('Papal bull'), God knows - but hasn't told me’.

1171

Found in ‘Thoroton The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire 1677’

‘Very great and many privileges were anciently granted to this Church by several Kings, Archbishops, and Chapters of York, which Pope Alexander the third, in the twelfth year of his Pontificate, viz 1171, refers to in his Bull wherein he confirmed to the Canons of the Church of St Mary of Southwell, amongst many others, their ancient liberties and customs to wit, the same which the Church of York had of old, and were known to have then, and that the Churches of the Prebends, and also those belonging to the Chapter should be free from Episcopal jurisdiction, and that they might institute fit vicars in them without any contradiction, as the said Archbishops and Chapters of York ever suffered them and their predecessors to do, who likewise granted to them, as was of long custom observed, and also by the said Pope approved, that both the clergy

and Laity of the County of Nottingham should at the feast of Pentecost come to their Church with solemn procession; and that every year according to the old and rational usage of that Church, a Synod should there be celebrated, and that thither the Christma should be brought by the Deans of the County from the Church of York to be thence distributed through the other Churches etc. There is yet, and from the beginning of this Church, I suppose ever hath been at Whit Sunday a certain small pension paid from every Parish and Hamlet in this County called the Pentecostal Offerings, whereof the Prebendary of the Sacrists or Sacriston Prebend hath the tenth part, and the residue is equally divided between the commons of the Canons [resident] and the Prebendary of the Prebend of Normanton.

There followed details of the amounts payable by each Parish and Hamlet the cumulative amounts being:

	£	s	d
Nottingham Deanery	3	9	0
Bingham Deanery	3	2	4¼
Newark Deanery	3	16	7
Retford Deanery	3	10	2
Southwell Jurisdiction	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
	15	18	7¼

1530

From Records of the Borough of Nottingham (RBN). Nottingham chamberlain accounts shows that the council paid for bells, coats and ale for the ‘moryns’ (Morris Dancers) who took part in the Gate.

The Gate to Sothwelle.

Item payde for x. byles [10 bells] to Sponer	xd. 10/-
Item for iiij. Dossyn platers [4 dozen platters]	iijs. iiijd. 4/4d
Item for v. dossyn dychys [5 dozen dishes]	xijd. 12d
Item for ij. dossyn boles [2 dozen bowls]	iiijd. 4d
Item for ij. Dossyn sawsyr [2 dozen saucers]	iiijd. 4d
Item payde for hale potes [ale pots]	vjd. 6d
Item payd for alle [ale] that ye danssers dranke at Addam Elton’s	iijd. 3d
Item payde to the tabyarar	xxd. 20d
Item payde to Edward Balle for ij yards and a d. [2½ yds] bocram that made the moryn’s [morris dancers] cote	xd. 10d
Item payde for borde [table] cloth	ixd. 9d
Item payde to Myles Askwyk for making the sam’ cott [same coat]	ijd. 2d
Item payde to Robard Harreson for ij (2) horses yat ye danssars had	viijd. 13d
Item payde to Robard Dampont for bayrryng the crosse	xijd. 12d
Item payde to Polltar wife for wychyng the dychys [washing the dishes]	vjd. 6d
Item payde to Robard Fychar for byles [bells] and for assadowne [thin Brass, tinsel] at Couentrie	iijs. Ijd. 4/2d
Item payde to Cotygh wife for halle (ale) that the denssars drawnch [dancers drank] at all tymes’	xiiijd. 14d
Item payde to a taberar for May day	vjd. 6d

Item for wycord

a jd. 1d

A note in the records of the Borough of Nottingham says, *'Gate = Journey. This was the annual procession of the Mayor and his brethren to Southwell Minster on Whitsun Monday to bear the Pentecostal offering'*

The Nottingham borough accounts of 1530 provide the earliest known documentary evidence of Morris dancing in the county. It was in that year that Archbishop Wolsey, in disfavour with Henry VIII, moved to Southwell, and it seems certain that he met the procession that Whit Monday in 1530, a few months before his death.

In **'The Chapter of Southwell Minster a story of 1000 years'** the 1956 edition (price 2/6d) it is written:

"To begin with, any mention of the Reformation in England must begin with the great Cardinal Wolsey, whose failure to get from the Pope a speedy dissolution of the King's first marriage to Queen Catherine led first to his own downfall and then to a whole train of events beginning with the breach with the Pope. It is therefore disappointing not to find any act of his which affected the Chapter in any way. All we know is that he lived in Southwell during the summer of 1530 and preached in the surrounding villages".

Wikipedia on the internet records...

'Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (c.1470–1471 – 28 November or 29 November 1530), who was born in Ipswich, Suffolk, England, was an English statesman and a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

When Henry VIII became king of England in 1509, Wolsey became the King's almoner. Wolsey's affairs prospered and by 1514 he had become the controlling figure in all matters of state and extremely powerful within the Church. The highest political position he attained was Lord Chancellor, the King's chief advisor, enjoying great freedom and often depicted as an alter rex (other king). Within the Church he became archbishop of York, the second most important see in England, and then was made a cardinal in 1515, giving him precedence over even the Archbishop of Canterbury. His main legacy is from his interest in architecture, in particular his old home of Hampton Court Palace, which stands today.'

1558

RBN. vs (5/-) 'paid to William Parker of Sneynton for caryng stuff to Southwell on Whytson Monday'

1583

RBN. 'And £6 13s. 4d paid by the hands of the aid Mayor to our Lady the queen's church of Southwell

1589

RBN. ijs.iiijd (2/4d) 'Item paid to Crane Sonne to make vpp the Sowthwell money more than was gathered

1608

RBN. Item the danssars for a reyward'

iijs. Viijd. 3/8d

Item payde to Nycolys Cottygh for making the
dawnsars gayer [gear]

xxd. 20d

1613

RBN. October 15th 'Southwell pence – Southwell pence beinge in arrerages for two years now last past, ytt ys agreed that Maister Hill Bridgemaister, shall pay the same, videlicet, 26s. 8d., out of his chardge, and so to sett ytt straight for this tyme'

1617

RBN. xxvjs. viijd. (26/8d) 'Item payd to the receiver of the offringes due to Southwell called "Southwell Pence" for ij. (2) yeares. [A footnote indicates 'The Pentecostal Offering']

1618

The year that a team of Morris Dancers were caught Morris Dancing instead of attending divine service: In an item dated 21st October, 1618, in the '**Archdeaconry MSS. Presentment Bill. 295.**' It reads,

"I the churchwarden of Bradmore doe psent Hugh Longley, Gervis Goldinge, John Butler, Hugh Ffoster for morris dauncers and Harold Maples, Richard Roberts and Antonie Truman of Ruddington and Ralph Lees of Wisall for ppaning the Sabaoth daye beinge and since Whitsundaye laste paste."

Thomas Bond, his marke.

In **The Act Books from Hodgkinson's transcription** were also found the following entries:

f.125d. 2th October 1618.

William Hartley "lay cooper" of Wolloughton.

Admitted "that upon a Sabaoth daye since the feaste of Pentecost laste paste he went to Trowell in companie of morris dauncers in tyme of divine service."

Richard Mee of Wolloughton.

Admitted "that he was absent from divine service upon a Sabaoth day and in companie with morris dauncers since Whitsun daye laste paste."

f.140, 7th November, 1618.

Hugh Longley of Bradmore 'for prophanynge the Sabaoth by morris dauncinge.'

Pen. Reserved.

Gervase Goldinge of the same 'for the like'. His father Richard Gervase pleaded guilty for him.

John Butler of the same 'for the like'.

Pleaded guilty. Dismissed.

Register 27. f. 140d. 7th November, 1618.

Harold Maples of Bradmore 'for prophaning the Sabaoth'. v. et m.

Richard Roberdes of the same 'for the same'.

Pleaded guilty. Dismissed with a warning.

Anthony Trewman of Ruddington 'for pyying at the same'. Excommunicated

Ralph Lees of Wisaw 'for the same'.

To be cited afresh for that day fortnight.

f. 152d. 25th December, 1618.
Ralph Lees of Wisawe. Excommunicated.

Register 28. f.146d.
21st November, 1618.
Henry Oldershawe of Bradmore 'a morrise dauncer'. v. et m.

f.148d. 25th November, 161.
5th December, 1618.
Edward Creswell of Bradmore 'for a morris dauncer'.
'His wife is with child before marriage'. v. et m.
f.151d. 5th December, 1618.
Henry Oldershawe of Bradmore 'a morrise dauncer or a looker on'.
Excommunicated.
Edward Creswell of the same 'for the same'. Excommunicated.

Humphrey Garner of Bradmore, John Wighteman of Ruddington and
Robert Windley of Lenton 'morrice dauncers'.

1635

RBN. xxxiijs (33/-) 'Item for a sugarlofe bestowed on ye Lord Archbishop's wife
and given to his servants when Maister Maior and his brethren dines at Southwell'.

1662

From 'Southwell Minster after the Civil Wars by A. Rogers 1974.
Paid to Mr long the Sacristan Prebendary out of the Pentecostal offerings 1 – 0 – 0

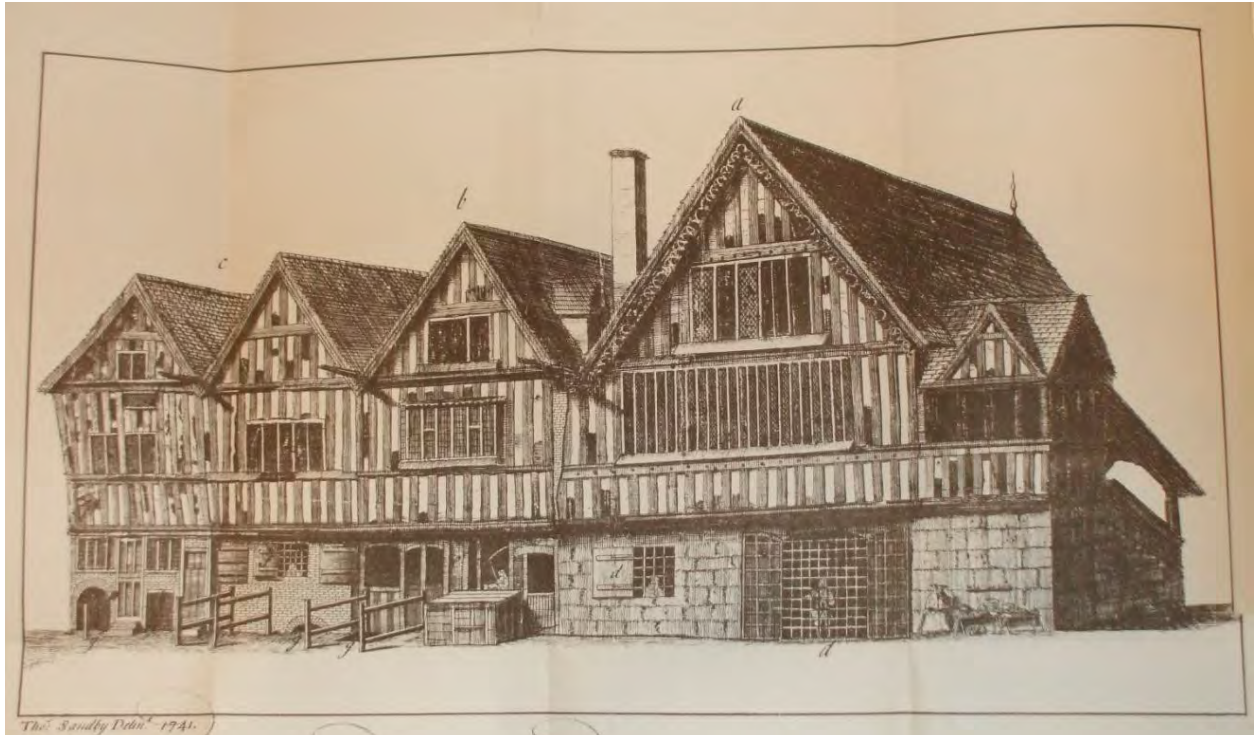
1741

The next image is a facsimile of an original drawing of the Town or Gild Hall By Thomas
Sandby R.A. A.D. 1741.
It was entitled: 'The present condition of the old own Hall of Nottingham'.
It has to be presumed that it is from this building, or a previous one on the same site that the
early 'Gates' would have set off.

The letters a. b. and c. above the gables are described as;

- a. The hall where the Assizes and Sessions for the Town used to be held.
- b. **The Council house where the Corporations meet's to do business** and where the records
and valuable writings belonging to the Corporation are deposited.
- c. The ancient Goal for Debtors.

This facsimile appeared in 'Records of the borough of Nottingham Volume II 1399-1485' and
printed in 1883. It is a series of extracts from the Archives of the Corporation of Nottingham.



1747

The Churchwardens accounts for East Bridgford state that in 1747 2/8d was paid at the Pentecostal offering – information supplied by Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History society in a letter dated 9th April 1981

1748

The Churchwardens accounts for East Bridgford state that in 1748 5/4d was paid at the Pentecostal offering – information supplied by Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History society in a letter dated 9th April 1981

1770

(Circa) The Archbishop of York abolished the synod and it is presumed the procession also ceased about this time. Inflation meant that the original ‘Southwell pence’ was becoming a very minor source of income as opposed to the substantial amount it had been in the early years.

1800's

According to one Victorian author, ‘Southwell was very gay on Whit Monday with the representatives of two hundred and five odd parishes riding into the little town. Whit weeks was long regarded as Southwell Feast Week, when merry village sports and other pastimes made a welcome break in the peaceful progress of the year. The greatest attractions were the donkey and pony races from Burgage Green to the top of Hockerton Hill and back. Nothing is left of all these enjoyments now, and the whole feast has degenerated into Southwell Races, which are held at Rolleston’.

1980

Bob Hine of the Dolphin Morris Men (DMM) started to research references to Morris Dancing in Nottinghamshire. Bob discovered certain references to the Southwell Procession, and also regarding the dancers of Bradmore who were summoned for dancing on the Sabbath during divine service [See 1618]. Further researches and preparations were made for a re-enactment of the procession.

Back in the day Bob made notes about his research and his first draft tells us:

'By around 1900, when Cecil Sharp and fellow enthusiasts, began their great task of recording the last vestiges of a once widespread folk activity, Morris Dancing was still practiced in only a few localities mostly in the Cotswolds. Today's revival Morris is based largely on the forms of the dance found in the Cotswolds, yet before the Industrial Revolution, the Morris was much more widespread and presumably also more varied in form. The style of the dance as it existed in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere must now be lost forever. It is still of interest, however, to find out as much as possible about the nature of these regional forms of the Morris.'

Last year I set out to discover what I could about the traditional Morris dance in Nottinghamshire and especially in south Nott's where the DMM are based. The surviving records are very few. For instance there is a letter written about 1915 to a local paper which suggests that around 1750 the Morris was still widespread in Nott's. Later evidence indicates that by the early 1800's the Morris was probably extinct in this area. Some old Church records reveal the existence of a number of local Morris sides in the early 1600's, notably one at Bradmore.

Reaching back further in time, the Borough Records of Nottingham provided evidence of the Morris in the 16th Century – for example the Kinoulton Morris Dancers are mentioned in the 1580's.

Thumbing through the index to the records – published in Victorian times no doubt to prove the historical pedigree of a rapidly growing industrial city – I came across the earliest reference for the year 1530. This refers to the Borough Council making certain payments to the 'moryn' which the editor of the records translates for us as the 'morris dancers'. I hadn't come across this spelling before and I wondered initially if perhaps this was a mis-rendering of the word 'Marian'. Fortunately an expert in old manuscripts from the United States was in Nottingham at this time and was able to confirm the spelling as moryn. The context makes it highly likely that the Chamberlain was referring to a Morris Dancer, since in the same accounts is mentioned the purchase of bells and payment for a taberer as well as several references to the 'daunser'.

The reason why the Chamberlain had made payments to the Morris Dancers was because they along with the Mayor and other members of the Council had taken part in a procession. This was the traditional Whitsuntide procession from Nottingham to Southwell, known as 'The Gate to Southwell'. Intrigued by this early record of Morris involvement in an annual Nottinghamshire event I pursued the references provided in the editor's footnotes. These took me back to an early 19th Century book on Southwell by Dickinson, and older book on the history of Nottinghamshire by Deering, and eventually to Thoroton, the main source of so much information about the history of the County.

What I discovered was slender enough;

1. *The procession had started in 1109 when the Archbishop of York, with Papal permission allowed the parishioners of Nottinghamshire to make their obligatory once-a-year trip to the Mother Church to Southwell instead of York.*
2. *This was to be a solemn procession*
3. *The current Mayor of Nottingham and his predecessors were to ride to Southwell on Whit-Monday, entering the town in their best livery and 'so to procession te deum'; the Mayor might be excused if the weather was inclement or the roads too bad ("foulness of the way, or distemperance of the weder") (Wikipedia tells us; A **Te Deum** is a short religious service, having mainly the scope of blessing an event or of thanksgiving. It is frequently used in the Orthodox Church).*
4. *That each village was to make a small 'pension' or payment to Southwell Minster – amounting in all to about £15 (Southwell Pence) [about the yearly salary of a schoolmaster in the 16th Century]*
5. *That this money was to be divided in a particular way between the Clergy at Southwell*
6. *That the Archbishop of York had ended the Synod around 1780, and with it presumably the procession*
7. *That Nottingham Borough frequently got behind with its payments – in 1613 for example.*

It soon became clear to me that virtually all the information came from a single source: The Red Book of Nottingham. The parts of this that dealt with the Gate to Southwell have been damaged, but fortunately had been copied into the 'Registers of Southwell' in the 1660's which record still survives.

A major reason why there is so little information is that the library of Southwell Minster with all its ancient records was burnt out during the Civil Wars.'

Bob's early notes were eventually padded out with historical detail and formed into an accessible and more authoritative document as follows:

THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL

The Procession

For more than 500 years, the people of Nottinghamshire made an annual procession from Nottingham to the cathedral at Southwell on Whit Monday. At the head of the procession – the 'Gate to Southwell' – rode the Mayor and Corporation of Nottingham in their ceremonial robes. Behind them came the priests and churchwardens from each parish in the county bringing their Pentecostal offering to the cathedral – the 'Southwell Pence' (ranging from 13s 4d for Nottingham down to 3¼d for Adbolton). Many other villagers and townspeople joined the procession too; it was part pilgrimage, part holiday excursion to the fair at Southwell. Entertainment was provided on the way by the Morris Dancers. The Nottingham Chamberlain's accounts for the year 1530 show that the Council paid for bells, coats and ale for the Morris Dancers who took part in the Gate to Southwell.

Origin and Purpose

The procession began in the year 1109, when the Archbishop of York, Thomas of Beverley, wrote to each of the parishes of Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute towards the building of the cathedral at Southwell, and to make an annual procession thereto. The early processions saw vividly some concrete results of their piety – the famous Norman nave and the tower of the Minster date from this period. Apart from the collection of alms – the Southwell Pence – the procession served several other functions. It provided an opportunity for ordinary people to atone for their sins by making a pilgrimage, and also for the distribution of the consecrated oil (chrism) from the Bishop to the parishes. At Southwell, there was an opportunity too for the priests to get up to date on doctrinal developments and other church matters, through the annual Synod (meeting) held in conjunction with the procession.

The demise of the procession

About 1770, the Archbishop of York abolished the Synod, and with it (presumably) the procession. The procession probably dies from a combination of monetary inflation, and religious change. Inflation meant that the Southwell Pence – originally a substantial contribution – became only a minor source of income for the cathedral. The religious Reformation, and especially the breaking of the link with Rome in the 16th Century, undermined the religious purpose of the procession.

Reasons for re-creating the Gate to Southwell

Three main reasons have influenced us to recreate the Gate to Southwell in 1981.

Firstly, the procession was an important and long-lived traditional event in Nottinghamshire, but is virtually unknown to the modern inhabitants. It is a part of our local heritage that has been almost totally lost.

Secondly, the Gate to Southwell provides the earliest known documentary evidence of Morris /dancing in the county (the Chamberlain's accounts of 1530), and hence strengthens the link between present-day revival Morris and the traditional art-form in this area.

The third reason for re-creating the procession is simply that it promises to be an unusual and very enjoyable experience.

The provisional plan for the 1981 procession

The 1981 'Gate to Southwell' will be held on Whit Saturday, June 6th. The procession will assemble in the Old Market Square at about 9 am, and will set off at 9.30 am, hopefully in the presence of the Mayor/Sheriff. There is no known information about the route taken by the old procession, and so we have chosen an itinerary which keeps us away from the main roads and passes through as many of the villages as feasible – Lambley, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Goverton, Bleasby and Fiskerton. The procession will end at Southwell Minster at about 6 pm.

For logistical reasons, the number of people in the procession will be strictly limited. The procession will comprise a cross bearer and a 'mayor' followed by about 20 sponsored walkers in 16th Century costume. They will be led by a team of musicians and Morris Dancers. The Morris Dancers will be organised into three relay groups, and will give displays at selected points on the journey, as well as dancing in the procession.

The historical focus of the procession will be the year 1530, since this is the date for which we have evidence of the link with the Morris Dancers. 1530 was a significant year in the history of the procession. Archbishop Wolsey, in disfavour with Henry VIII, moved to Southwell in April of that year with a retinue of 160 and remained there until the autumn. It seems certain that he met the procession on Whit Monday 1530, a few months before his death. The breaking of the English church's link with Rome which Henry VIII set in train and which was a chief source of his dispute with Wolsey, led in time to the demise of the procession.

R C Hine

18 December 1980

[BOB HINE says, 'As you know the original inspiration for the Gate revival came when I was researching the history of the Morris in our area and came across a reference in a footnote mentioning the Gate. I must have discussed this with other Dolphins, but mostly it was Ian Ambrose who supported this and came to meetings. My main recollection is of a meeting at the Anchor pub Sutton Bonington. Those present with me were, Ian Ambrose and I think Steve Earwicker and Cecil Loughlin from Foresters. I imagine that the date was early in 1980. The outcome was that there was enthusiasm for some kind of re-creation. But we thought that there wasn't enough time to organise things for Whitsun 1980, so we decided to start in 1981. As far as I recall, Foresters main practical contribution was to design and make a badge. It was assumed at that stage that only men's Cotswold sides would be involved, because this was the kind of dancing we imagined for the 16th Century. (The Bradmore evidence supported the idea that they were all male sides.) We probably had a number of meetings but I don't recall them. I did most of the work contacting people. I wrote to Home Brewery to ask for support and their marketing man was very supportive. He specifically mentioned Mrs Barbara Allen at the Bramley Apple. So with the offer of a free pint, that's why we went there in the first place']

Ian Ambrose recalls: After Bob informed us of his discovery in early 1980 I spent some of the summer checking out the references and looking for any more, mostly in Nottingham library. Bob then explored the possibility of reviving it as a Morris event with Dolphin, Foresters and Micklebarrow. Once the basic idea had been put together we needed to select a route and several excursions were undertaken to find the best one – a drive along the main road convinced us very early on that this would be inappropriate – too much traffic and not enough pubs. The expeditions as I remember were mostly undertaken by Bob, myself and Steve ?(not Earwicker) from Foresters. Several routes along the Woodborough Road, Mapperley, Woodborough and Lambley were considered before the Sneinton route selected. One particularly memorable trip involved checking out a large number of welcoming, warm pubs of a very snowy day in Feb 1981 – moving on from each one was hard work. I think what finally gave the Sneinton route the edge was discovering the short cut path through the school at the top on the hill from the Hermitage as the Mapperley routes were really too long. The route from Lowdham through the various villages was decided very early on as it provided an attractive alternative to the main road with plenty of villages and pubs to hopefully attract crowds

Putting the rest of it together once the route was finalised, Bob completed most of the arrangements with appropriate support from the rest of us. For the first few years it was a prime Dolphin event with a good turnout. And number 1 was as has been well documented a ring event with Father Ken and Mike Garland as special guests. Father Ken stayed with us in Beeston Rylands, spending the Friday evening drinking tea and talking about a whole range of subjects including what made him give up a high ranking naval career to become a priest. It had much to do with the effect of seeing so many killed in action in World War Two. As expected Ken only walked selected sections of the route and Gill acted as his chauffeur for the day – his feet were in much better condition than mine at the end of the day! I suspect we put him on a train back to London on Sunday morning, but I can't rightly remember. We got a splendid thank you letter from him several days later which I think I still have somewhere – don't remember ever passing it on to the scrapbook, but when it turns up I'll make a copy for the archive.

The first year we chose Oxfam as our charity and their local rep (Sandy?) organised the walkers. Dancers also were sponsored for as many legs as they opted to do – we split it three ways then except the first and last sections where everyone joined in. Ted carried the cross and I danced every leg usually leading Dolphin's processions on their sections. We mainly did Winster, but also Wheatley, Fieldtown and the Bower form Lichfield. I think sometimes we also did a processional version of Pram Pushing.

I remember Roy doing a splendid job both traffic marshalling and collecting from car drivers, particularly those stuck in the queue for Southwell races. This he did for several of the early years.

Dancer's sponsorship carried on for most of the Smile Don't Stare years – usually so much per mile dances as each leg was supposed to be a mile.

Once the banner was produced I carried it much of the time until taking over carrying the cross when Ted moved on.

In those early days of planning and preparation everything was new and had to be thought out properly and designed from scratch. The Gate to Southwell needed a logo and Pete Bradley of DMM with his artistic flair took the job on. Several ideas were tried before a design was decided upon.

The iconic view of Southwell Minster was an obvious choice and the first idea involved the twin towers with a lot of detail drawn on, and positioned above a simple ribbon banner bearing the name of the event.

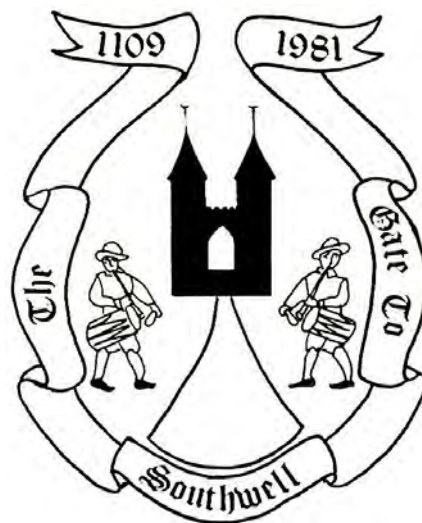
The first Gate logo design:



The second design saw a simple silhouette of the twin towers with the ribbon banner extended around the image. Dates were added also the image of the pipe and tabor player from the famous 17th Century wood block design of Will Kempe dancing his 'nine dayes wonder'. The font design used was too ornate and hard to read.



2nd Design



3rd Design

The third and final design was merely the second design with a slightly clearer font but it was the chosen logo to launch the revived procession.

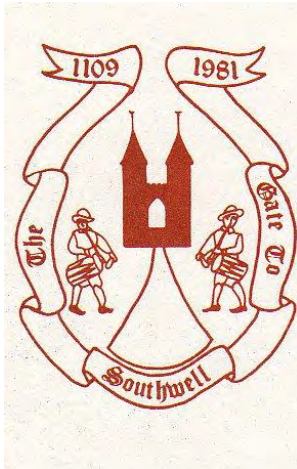


Left: The circa 1600 woodcut image of Will Kemp dancing his jig from Norwich to London. The tabor player used in the Gate to Southwell logo can clearly be seen on the left.



CHAPTER TWO

1981 NOTTINGHAM GETS A NEW GATE



The Gate to Southwell

ORGANISER: BOB HINE
 17 Hollytree Close,
 Hoton,
 Leics.
 Tel. Wymeswold 880635 (Home)

PUBLICITY: IAN STEWART
 The Old Schoolhouse,
 Kingston-on-Soar,
 Nottm.
 Tel. Nottm. 56101 Ext. 3105 (Work)
 Kegworth 3569 (Home)

Above: The original header on the first letters of invite and information

Jun 6th The 1st Gate sets off on Whit Saturday
 Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Clifton Grove, Micklebarrow
 Sponsored walkers in period costume.

The chosen charities were; Oxfam and the City Hospital Children's Unit Special Wheelchair Fund. £200-£300 for each charity.

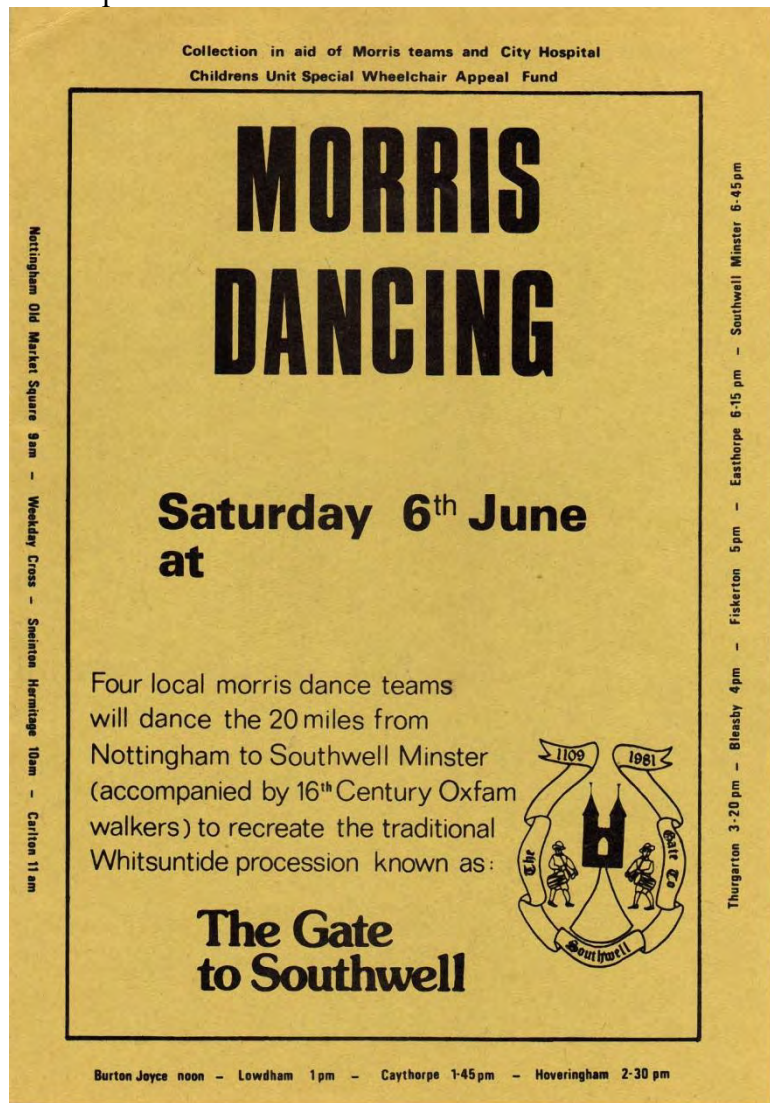


Eric Foxley of Foresters says, 'I don't think there was a dance in the minster the first year'. Bob Hine seems to concur when he says, 'Cathedral – a bit too short'

The first Gate badge was designed by Pete Bradley a DMM, and was produced by Foresters Morris Men. Pete recalls, 'Dear Andy, I designed the original gate to Southwell logo and Jo, my wife, made the original gate to Southwell banner which was carried from Nottingham to Southwell [first used in 1983]. I hope this helps.'

Joe Oskiewicz of the DMM designed and printed the 1981 Gate poster using Letraset rub on letters and numbers. Joe said, 'I possessed a Xerox printing machine at the time - and yes you guessed correct I used Letraset for the posters. "Word processing" hadn't entered into the English language at this time.'

The first Gate poster was printed on card as below:



The route for the first Gate was finalised in February 1981 with suggested timings and distances as follows:

09.30	Council House	0.0m	
09.40	Weekday Cross	0.3m	stage 1
10.00	Lord Nelson, Sneinton	1.0m	stage 2
10.20	Greenwood Tree, Sneinton	0.7m	stage 3
10.50	Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton	1.5m	stage 4
11.10	Royal Oak, Carlton	1.0m	stage 5
11.45	Woodside Road, Burton Joyce	1.4m	stage 6
12.00	Cross Keys, Burton Joyce	1.3m	stage 7
12.20	Junction Main Road, Burton Joyce		stage 8
13.00	Magna Charta, Lowdham	1.4m	stage 9
13.45	Black Horse, Caythorpe	1.6m	stage 10
14.15	Elm Tree, Hoveringham	1.2m	stage 11

14.55	Gravel Pits, Hoveringham	1.3m	stage 12
15.20	Coach & Horses, Thurgarton	1.0m	stage 13
15.45	Goverton turn	0.9m	stage 14
16.05	Coach & Horses, Bleasby	0.8m	stage 15
16.30	Bleasby	1.0m	stage 16
17.00	Bromley Arms, Fiskerton	1.0m	stage 17
17.20	Station, Fiskerton	0.8m	stage 18
17.45	Brinkley	0.9m	stage 19
18.15	White Lion, Easthorpe	1.0m	stage 20
18.30	Southwell Minster	0.4m	Final stage
	Total Miles	20.5m	

Eric Foxley of Foresters provided me with the following greeting given to the procession at Sneinton. The original Gate ‘scroll’ prepared by Tom Huggon had been presumed lost so this is as close as it gets. Eric had noted it in his diary,

‘To The Gate to Southwell. We the representatives of the Sneinton Environmental Society being charged with the honour of greeting this worthy pilgrimage by our members and cherishing the customs of olde Englande do hereby beseech merciful providence; that the weather be clement, that your footwear be comfortable, that your resolve will be greater than the journey, and that there will be good ale to refresh you at all convenient halting places. Go now with our best wishes. God save the Queen’.

Eric admitted to having had the scroll from the very first Gate and was unsure of its present location; but he hoped that he had still got it ‘filed away with his papers’. It hasn’t turned up yet.

Father Kenneth Loveless was the Squire of the Morris Ring in 1981 and was invited to join in with the first Gate along with Mike Garland the then Bagman of the Morris Ring. Both attended the event.

Following on we see Father Kenneth complete with Squires badge at an event in northern England shortly after the Gate in 1981; his Squire’s badge clearly displayed.



In a letter dated 19th February 1981 Father Kenneth wrote:

My Dear Bob,

Thank you so much for your most kind letter and enclosures received this morning.

It is most fortunate that Thaxted have changed their Ring Meeting dates from 5/7th June to 29th/31st May, so I am in fact free from 5th/7th June – Whit weekend – and I will very gladly take part in your celebrations if you so desire. I could certainly not walk the whole distance (I am 70 on 1st August !!) but I am sure I can manage half a mile or so towards the end! – so please book me in – I am making my annual pilgrimage to N.T.M.C. on 13th March so if you are there we might discuss the details at the end of the evening.

I could travel on the Friday evening if you can provide accommodation or on Saturday morning whichever seems to you suitable – in any case I shall require accommodation on the Saturday night and travel to London on the Sunday morning. I could even start with the procession for a suitable distance.

I never take the concertina nowadays – I have a badge to wear and a staff to carry, but I will gladly lead the Morris Men – what you will!!

Wassail! Fr. Kenneth.

P.S. I have to use public transport – I have no car and could not drive it if I had!!

N.T.M.C. is the Nottingham Traditional Music Club and the source of the founder members of the DMM; it ran from 1967 to 1989.



The original Gate dancers and walkers pose for a photograph outside the Council House

NTMC Bull-sheet dated 12.6.81 reports;

'The Gate to Southwell was a huge success and a credit to all involved, the organisers, the dancers and the musicians, the pilgrim and the Oxfam walkers in costume. Great co-operation was received, on the way coffee was provided at Burton Joyce, and the Town Crier came out to welcome us with a proclamation at Sneinton. Thanks go to Bob Hine and his team of organisers from Dolphin, Micklebarrow, Foresters and Clifton Grove Morris teams, and Sandy of Oxfam. Thanks are mainly due to our sponsors, who are expected, when totals become apparent, to have donated around £200-£300 for the City Hospitals Children's Unit special Wheelchair Fund and a similar amount for Oxfam. Make a note in your diary pro-former for next year's Gate to Southwell. May 30th 1982'. [Actual date was May 29th]



Left: Father Kenneth and Bob Hine get things under way

At the 1981 DMM AGM it was recorded in the Bagman's report [Bob Hine was the Bagman]: *'There's just space to record my thanks to...Pete [Bradley] for artwork/logo for the Gate to Southwell'*

Bob also reported, *'The novel event of the year was the Gate to Southwell; undertaken in conjunction with Foresters, Clifton Grove & Micklebarrow [Morris Men]. We were very pleased to*

have with us the Ring Squire (Ken Loveless) and Ring Bagman (Mike Garland). All participants

seem to have enjoyed the day – thanks partly to good weather (which seemed unlikely a day or so before) – and the feast afterwards. [Once again] Dolphin Showers gave us very valuable financial support, helping the event to break even. Sponsorship of the dancers raised £511.92 for the City Hospital Children’s Unit, and in addition the Oxfam walkers raised some £400’.



Dolphin performing for the civic party
Before the procession begins



Bob Hine with Father Kenneth leads the
procession as it leaves the Square

Ian Stewart in his DMM Squires report said, *‘THE event of the year was, of course, the Gate to Southwell. I can truthfully say that Dolphin made Morris history by originating and organising the Gate, with credit going to Bob for having the original idea and motivating not only Dolphin but several other sides to carry it out. Credit too to everybody else in the side who worked hard to set up the event – on the day, the organisation worked like a charm’.*

‘Where the hell are we?’ says Bob!



Nick Murphy of DMM recalls, *‘Interestingly, the first ever Gate to Southwell took place during my first year of membership, but for some reason I knew nothing about it! It shows how busy Dolphin must have been in those days if a new member was excluded (probably unintentionally). The first I knew was when photographs were shown!’*

Dave Ledsam of DMM regrets his decision to leave the penny whistle at home and recalls, *'I remember the first one mainly because I was young and fit at the time and was sponsored to dance all the way and with the less than gentle persuasion of my then girlfriend so did. Never was the pint on arrival at Southwell more welcome. Strangely enough I remember little of the day apart from the leafy lanes by which we came to Southwell itself. It was a hot day and I remember falling into a patch of purple vetch before being hauled back and told to caper like a man; or something like that. 'As one who danced (allegedly) the whole way back in 1981, I thought the gate referred to was gait, or as in the case of footsore, inebriated Morris Men – limp'.*



Bob Hine's reflections

'The Gate is of course a Whitsuntide procession, so when we started we naturally chose the Whitsun weekend. Because of some obscure ecclesiastical rule, the dates of Easter and Whitsun fluctuate over quite a wide range. You will know from the records the earliest date on which the [resurrected] Gate

has been held - probably mid-May? At any rate, in the early years the weather could be cold and damp. Once we got on the route, there could be a strong headwind coming off the North Sea. This didn't deter us but it didn't help'. At the other extreme, very hot weather could be a problem. Perhaps it was the first year – certainly one of the early years – the Smile Don't Stare collectors hired mediaeval costumes. One guy dressed in the thick woollen robes of Friar Tuck and almost melted in the warm sunshine. The little shop in Rolleston did a good trade in ice creams.'



Some of the 'medieval' walkers on the route

In planning the first Gate, we had to decide on the route and the schedule. As far as I know, there are no records to help with the route, but one of the old books that describes the Gate seems to suggest that the route was a more northern one than the route along the Trent valley, but this is purely speculative since it was written long after the procession ceased to be held. In the end we chose what we thought would be the more scenic route, hence the diversion through Bleasby and Caythorpe rather than heading straight in to Southwell from Thurgarton. We also tried to avoid going along roads where traffic would be speeding. We have kept to the

same route over the years except for the exit from Nottingham. In the early years when we got to the top of the hill going out of Sneinton, we carried straight on through the [Greenwood Dale] school grounds. You may find a letter from me to the Head asking for permission. This was dropped after we stopped dancing the whole route, if not before.

[Nott's County Council County Treasury billed Dolphin for £5.59p; 'To use of the footpath/road from Sneinton Boulevard to Greenwood Road at the Greenwood Dale School on Saturday 6th June 1981 for procession']



In general, we have been lucky with the weather and have avoided a complete washout. The odd shower drops on us of course but the years of heavier rainfall have been few. I think the wettest may have been the year Ripley came [1991] – perhaps that's why they only did it once! I did tell them that they didn't need to process in the rain, but they were not to be put off. At the other extreme, very hot weather could be a problem.



Apart from the inclement May weather, we found it inconvenient to have a date which changed every year in an apparently random way. Accordingly, we decided to fix the date for the June weekend after Thaxted [Thaxted Morris Men hold a Morris Ring Meeting every year and have done since the formation of the Morris Ring] - when we hoped the weather if not dry would be mild. In general, the date wouldn't be too far away from the actual Whitsun. After all, as I often reminded the Mayor, the records do say that the Mayor might postpone the procession because of 'intemperance of the weder or foulness of the way'.

Clifton Grove Morris Men dancing in sepia toned soft focus



The relays

I don't remember how exactly we decided to organise the procession in relays. I suppose that it was clear that not many people could dance 20 miles in a day, even in 1981; so some kind of relay was necessary [One year, the University Morris team did dance the entire route [1984 or 1985], but they are unique in this].

In order not to create too much of a traffic-jam, and allow ourselves the odd drink, we decided to use minibuses.

In the first year, I persuaded my next-door neighbour, (Emeritus Professor Harry Heaney) to drive the minibus for Dolphin. [Harry prides himself on his chronological memory: he might have some interesting 'outsider' recollections of what he calls 'Morris prancing']

(Harry grew up in the forties and fifties before the folk revival) on the first Gate. He never came again, so his recollections will be uncontaminated by what happened in subsequent years.



Ian Stewart, seen here, sporting the 'Dolphin Showers' sweatshirt to say thanks for the barrel of beer the company sponsored (Ian thinks he did it just to keep warm). Cecil of Foresters pretends he still has energy to dance. Ted Hutchby can be seen holding the wooden cross that Bob borrowed from the Minster.



Clifton Grove Morris Men
'Winstering'

Timings

What speed does a Morris dance procession travel at?

We had no idea in 1980, or even if it was feasible to do the trip in a day. I remember talking to Nigel Farmer, an erstwhile Dolphin, who had some experience of a dance procession with Bristol Morrismen. From this information, we calculated that a reasonable speed would be about two miles an hour. Hence we based our calculations on this. It meant a fairly early start from Slab Square, and an arrival at the Minster after Evensong.

The Minster were always more comfortable with this timing than arriving before Evensong. With the earlier time, they were always a little afraid that we would be late and delay their ceremony. Now they are more relaxed, because their fears have never been realised – if anything, we are waiting for them in recent times.

I was a bit apprehensive on the first Gate that the timings would be too tight. If necessary the next relay team might have to set off before the procession arrived. On the day though, I was delighted that we were never more than a couple of minutes out as we reached each changeover point.

Going the full distance

Before we abandoned dancing the full route, I always walked/danced the whole distance. It is a different experience to process along the whole route, as Ian (Ambrose) and others will confirm. It has its downside – apart from blisters - especially in going through the suburbs of Nottingham and along the main road from Burton Joyce to Lowdham. But there's much more of a connection with the mediaeval procession, when by foot or horseback would have been the only way to travel. The journey from Lowdham onwards going out towards the River Trent, takes one through some quintessential English villages and countryside. Not to mention into some fine English pubs.

By covering the whole distance, I could also keep an eye on things throughout the day. Ian Ambrose did likewise, especially when after Ted's departure he carried the cross. Since the very beginning, Ian has been a Gate enthusiast and I have really valued his support. I have to remind him though, that he did miss the Gate one year because of a clash of holiday dates, so I am still one year ahead of him!

Transport

When we started in principle we had a minibus for each side so that we didn't cause too much of a blockage to traffic. This also meant that the cost to each side of taking part was very small – particularly if through some contact you could lay your hands on a minibus for free. Lunch was down to individuals – bring your own sandwiches or grab some food at the Ship the Marquis or the chip-shop in Lowdham. And there was always a free pint at the Bramley to look forward to. In looking for support for the Gate I wrote to Home Breweries, and they agreed to help. They directed us to the Bramley Apple and the then licensee Mrs Barbara Allen (see the correspondence in my notebook).

As the numbers built up, the traffic tailback behind the procession became more of a concern. I did my best to ensure that the procession remained compact, and to wave cars past when the road was clear. This difficulty was greatly reduced after the procession was shortened, and we started having buses to convey the dancers between dance spots.

Talking of traffic reminds me of Wocko's [Lloyd Winston Watkins; a Dolphin man) Robin Hood efforts along the road from Bleasby to Hoveringham. Instead of waving the traffic past, Wocko's idea was to stop them and demand money for our charity. As I recall, he was wearing his Green Man costume. His actions proved to be highly lucrative – who could resist Wocko's banter and wicked smile. Paper donations were preferred to coins. As the organiser, I did, however, have a few qualms that we might be crossing the border between charity collection and highway robbery...



‘Wocko’ – highway robber or wandering minstrel

Collections

In the early days' it was rather a chore to have to write off for collection permits to Nottingham City, Newark and the authority that covered Burton Joyce etc. Then the tins had to be sealed and eventually opened under controlled conditions. Details had to be returned on forms supplied by the collecting authorities. If I recall correctly we had to have these authenticated by an accountant – Phil Wrigley did this for a while I think. But we raised considerable sums for Smile Don't Stare and the NSPCC, and in more recent times for the Hospice.



Above: Iconic photograph of the Gate procession at the Minster on the West Walk. Bathed in sunshine; Ted Hutchby with the cross, followed by Bob Hine, Father Kenneth Loveless, Squire of the Morris Ring, and Mike Garland the Morris Ring Bagman

Clifton Grove Morris Men



Micklebarrow Morris Men



Foresters Morris Men



Dolphin Morris Men with Sam Taylor from Derby Morris Men



In a letter dated 8th June 1981 from The Very Reverend Murray Irvine;

'Dear Mr Hine,

May I, on behalf of the Minster, express our very warm thanks to you and to all who were involved in reviving the Gate to Southwell, and for making it such a splendid and colourful occasion. It was a happy coincidence that it coincided with a Choir Festival this year. I do hope that you have established a precedent and that this will now be an annual occasion. With very many thanks and good wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Irvine'



Bob Hine also says,

'We always had good support from the other sides. I retired from being Dolphin Bagman to running the Gate [at the DMM AGM 1982]. Some of us in Dolphin wanted the Gate to be a Dolphin run event, as we had re-discovered it and it seemed to be our connection with traditional dancing in the area.'

Bob Hine wrote in his letter of thanks to Dolphin Showers (who provided the barrel of beer for the procession members to have a free pint):

'We are delighted with the success of the procession; all those involved had a most enjoyable and memorable day. We were very lucky with the weather – apart from one brief shower we had a bright and mainly sunny day, when other places in the region had prolonged rain.

I was pleased, too, that we were able to keep very closely to the time schedule throughout the day, from the Lord Mayor's send off at 9am to the Bishop's welcome at the Minster at 6.45pm.

We had appreciative audiences along the route and we have raised about £400 for the Children's Unit of the City Hospital, Nottingham. The sponsored walkers raised a similar sum for Oxfam.

I shall be handing a cheque over to a representative of the City Hospital on Sunday June 5th, when an exhibition of photographs taken on the Gate to Southwell will be opening at the Playhouse Theatre, Nottingham.'

The Evening Post (7th or 8th June edition) carried a photograph of Bob Hine handing over a cheque at the opening of the exhibition of photographs at Nottingham Playhouse.



BOB HINE, treasurer of Dolphin Morrismen, handing over a cheque for £511.92 for the Friends of Greenwood Children's Centre at the City Hospital. Mrs. Susan Dunster, receiving the cheque, is a committee member of Smile Don't Stare and also a parent of a dis-

abled child attending the unit.

The money was raised by the four local Morris sides — Clifton Grove Morrismen, Forrester's Morrismen, Dolphin Morrismen and Micklebarrow Morrismen, when they revived the old tradition of the Gate to Southwell.

The handing over of the money was timed to open an exhibition of photographs by Nigel Pert taken during the dance at Nottingham Playhouse. The exhibition ends at the Playhouse this weekend and then will be on display at Southwell Minster from July 15-25



The pewter 'Gate to Southwell' tankard that was produced to commemorate the first revival.

Issue one of the Sneinton Magazine [summer 1981] carried a short article about the Gate written by the editor Gilbert Clarke (who wears top hat and tails at Sneinton Community Centre and rings the bell at the end of the proclamation reading by Tom Huggon):

Curiously no photographs of Sneinton have been submitted, but this one has been scanned this from the magazine and enhanced.



Gilbert wrote:

“t’was verily a joyous happening upon Saturday June 6th when, after a considerable lapse of years the Nottingham to Sneinton “Gate” (dance) was reintroduced by local Morris men with proceeds devoted to charities.

The twenty mile pilgrimage to the Minster paused en route through Sneinton where the sprightly men (with ladies and children plus entourage of Oxfam followers clad in medieval garb) were received by a welcoming party from our Society Committee.

They were Vice-Chairman Tom Huggon, resplendent in black gown, crimson waistcoat and Nelson hat, Iris Smith in handsome grey velvet two-piece and your editor wearing top hat and morning coat.

Tom then read from a large scroll in measured ringing tones, “Oyez, Oyez, Oyez”, delivered a short message and wished them God-speed, having put in a special plea to the weather-clerk for the clement weather to remain.

The party continued merrily on its way, escorted to The Greenwood Tree where fare-thee-wells were exchanged. Altogether a most enjoyable interlude.

Gilbert Clarke

Another photograph scanned from the Sneinton Magazine.



Terry Paling of DMM said, 'Gate - I did a few certainly, though not always with Dolphin. I'd have 'Musgraved' and 'Greenwooded' and once even 'Calverttoned' (I think)'.

Bob Hine with an eye on attention to detail produced a list of:

- 1 Good points
- 2 Points needing attention
And
- 3 Suggestions for future Gates.

Generally all went off well but Bob noted:

- 1 Civic send off needs tightening
- 2 Public performances – need more shows
- 3 Collection – need an overseer on the day and more helpers
- 4 Publicity – need more local publicity to get people out along the route
- 5 Cathedral – a bit too short
- 6 Too many cars etc following behind – traffic obstacle
- 7 Musicians couldn't be heard at the back

In a letter dated 10th June 1981 to Bob Hine from Canon D.P. Keene he says,

'Dear Bob,

I think the Gate to Southwell went very well. I really do admire your ability to organise things well. The timing was perfect. The service in church seemed to have been appreciated also. I have now found "My Faith is like an oaken staff" In the school hymn book, so we sang it this morning.

I wonder if you have heard from the secretary of the 1984 Festival Committee yet. There is also 1983 to think of – presumably you want to come on Whit Saturday in that year? Thank you for inviting me to the ceilidh and for the mug.

*Yours sincerely
David Keene*

Bill Leivers of Clifton Grove Morris Men says, *'The 1981 event passed in a bit of a haze and I seem to remember much drink and many semi-conscious dancers arriving in Southwell. I also remember Rev Ken Loveless playing his anglo concertina - wonderful!*

No one would have thought at that time that thirty years later the Gate to Southwell would still be going strong and that well over sixty dancing sides would have taken part.

The week following the 1981 Gate the Newark Advertiser carried an article which included a photograph of the Micklebarrow Morris Men with the Bishop of Southwell:

Gladys the cow meets a bishop

THE Bishop of Southwell, the Rt Rev Denis Wakeling, is pictured talking to Southwell's Micklebarrow Morrismen at the end of their 20-mile dance from Nottingham to the Minster. With them is their mascot, Gladys the cow, held by Mr Terry Shankland.

The dance on Saturday recreated a 12th Century custom which is thought to have died out in the 18th Century. It was for priests and churchwardens from each parish in the county to join an annual procession led by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham to take offerings to Southwell Minster.

The Southwell dancers joined three Nottingham teams including the organisers, the Dolphin Morrismen.

Ten hours

Their secretary, Mr Bob Hind, discovered the custom last year. "I don't think we are as hardy as the dancers would have been in the 12th Century, but there have been no real casualties apart from a few sore feet and blisters," he said.

The dancers started from Nottingham Council House and arrived at Southwell Minster about ten hours later. They were met by the bishop and the Provost of Southwell, the Very Rev Murray Irvine, who said he hoped the dance would become an annual event.

They were accompanied by a group of sponsored walkers, dressed in 12th Century costume, aiming to help Oxlam.



Gladys the cow meets a bishop

The Bishop of Southwell, the Rt. Rev Denis Wakeling, is pictured talking to Southwell's Micklebarrow Morrismen at the end of their 20 mile dance from Nottingham to the Minster with their mascot, Gladys the cow, held by Mr Terry Shankland.

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The NTMC newsletter dated Friday 5th June 1981 had a ‘colour supplement’ with it, written by Bob Hine:

The Gate to Southwell

Bob Hine is the bagman of Dolphin Morris and has been a member of NTMC for 13 years. He is the instigator and prime mover of the ‘Gate’. I asked Bob to write how he came to uncover the procession and set up this revival.

Exclusive to NTMC Newsletter, Bob Hine writes:

“Last year I set out to discover what I could about the Morris tradition in Notts. And especially in the south of the county where Dolphin are based. I quickly found that very few records have survived: not perhaps surprising as the Morris was a folk, not literary, activity and had disappeared in this area before 1800. From a handful of documents we can get a few glimpses of the old style Morris – the Bradmore Morris Dancers getting into trouble with the church for dancing on a Sunday in 1618, and the Kinoulton Morris Dancers being paid for dancing before ‘Maister Mayor’ in Nottingham for example.

The most intriguing reference I came upon was also the earliest – for 1530 in the Nottingham Borough Records. This shows the council paying for the beer that the ‘denssars (dancers) drank ‘at all tymes’, for cloth to make the ‘moryns’ (Morris Dancers) coat, for a supply of bells and for rewarding the taberer. All this activity was in connection with the ‘Gate to Southwell’. This turned out to be a traditional annual procession from Nottingham to Southwell on Whit Monday, in which the Mayor, the clergy of the county and many ordinary people took part. When started in 1109 it was a solemn religious event, but by the 16th Century it had clearly become a joyous occasion.

Southwell held its first fair in Whit-week. The processions had ended at the latest in 1780 when what had been a Roman Catholic practice no longer suited the Protestant Church.

Regrettably I have been unable to discover little more about the Gate to Southwell. We do know how much money each parish was supposed to bring to the Minster (Southwell Pence), that it was paid over in the North Porch of the Minster and that it was divided in a particular way between the clergy at Southwell, but little more. This is surprising considering the hundreds of processions that were held over the years and their obvious importance in the life of the church. A major reason for the lack of information is that virtually all the Minster records were destroyed in the Civil Wars. There may be further records at York, Nottingham or indeed in parish chests but these remain to be discovered. Even though the 1530 records are slender enough, they seem to bring through the years something of the spirit of the Morris. The idea grew in my mind of trying to recreate the procession. It became a tempting challenge – the distance from Nottingham to Southwell is 14 miles by the most direct route. When I broached the subject to others in Dolphin, it was greeted with enthusiasm. Since the Gate to Southwell is a common heritage to our area, we invited other local sides to take part, and foresters, Micklebarrow and Clifton Grove indicated their interest. The paucity of records meant that we had a fairly free hand to organise the vent without knowingly departing from the historical accuracy.

Throughout we have had great cooperation from all whom we have approached – The Mayor of Nottingham to start us off, the bishop to meet us at the minster, local groups on the route, Dolphin Showers who are helping to underwrite the expenses, and many others.

The final co-operation we need tomorrow – June 6th – is from the weather! Let’s hope that we, unlike the 16th Century Mayor don’t suffer from ‘Foulness of the way, or distemperance of the weder’

Bob Hine
Bagman of Dolphin
1981



CHAPTER THREE

1982 BOB GETS A MUG AND A PLATE

May 29th the 2nd Gate
 Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Clifton Grove, Micklebarrow, Broadstone

The chosen charity was: Smile Don't Stare - The collection was £243.74 + £11.34 + £143 from the feast



The Gate badge was a Pete Bradley design and the same design as used in 1981 except that the date 1981 was changed to 1982 by a subtle use of writing over the '1' of 1981 with a '2' in biro – stylish and effective!

The 1982 Gate poster was designed and printed by Joe Oskiewicz of DMM using Letraset rub on numbers and letters.

In a letter of 20th May 1982 Tom Huggon, of Sneinton Community Centre writes,
'Dear Bob,
The Gate to Southwell
Thank you for your letter notifying me of the procession on Saturday 29th May. A suitable delegation dressed in appropriate costume will be waiting to receive the procession at about 10am outside the Lord Nelson in Thurgarton Street.
I look forward to seeing you then
Best wishes,
Tom Huggon'

MORRIS DANCING

**Saturday 29th May
at**

Four local morris dance teams will dance the 20 miles from Nottingham to Southwell Minster (accompanied by 16th Century walkers) to recreate the traditional Whitsuntide procession known as:

**The Gate
to Southwell**

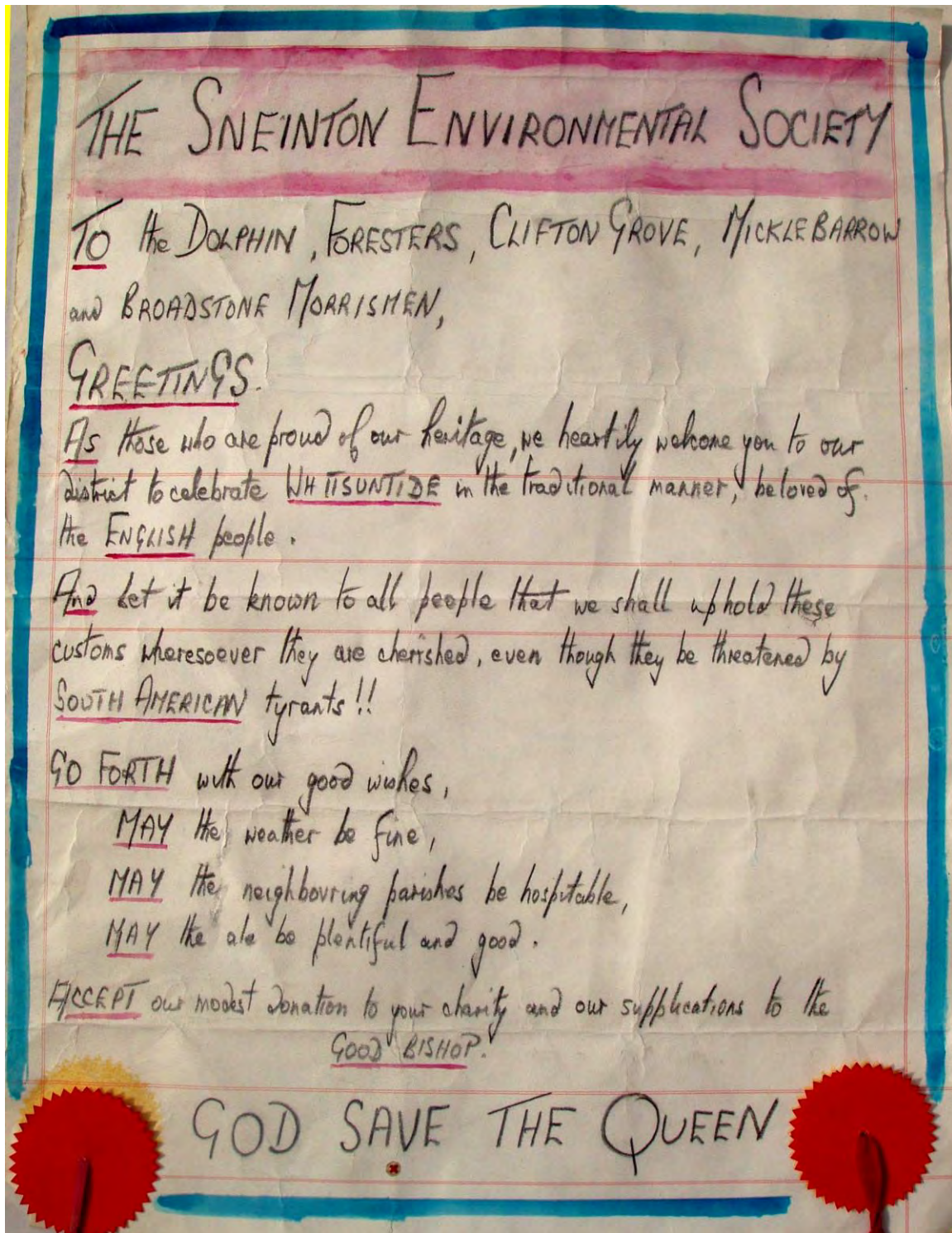


Nottingham Old Market Square 9am - Mowbray Cross - Sneinton Hermitage 10am - Carlton 11am

Thurgarton 3-20 pm - Bleanby 4pm - Fisherton 5pm - Easthorpe 6-15 pm - Southwell Minster 6-20 pm

Burton Joyce noon - Lowdham 1pm - Caythorpe 1-45pm - Hoveringham 2-30 pm

Tom Huggon met the procession with his delegation from the Sneinton Environmental Society. He unrolled his prepared scroll and in his best Town Crier's voice declared "OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ" and read from the proclamation.



THE SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO THE DOLPHIN, FORESTERS, CLIFTON GROVE, MICKLEBARROW
AND BROADSTONE MORRISHEN,

GREETINGS!

As those who are proud of our heritage, we heartily welcome you to our district to celebrate WHITSUNTIDE in the traditional manner, beloved of the ENGLISH people.

And let it be known to all people that we shall uphold these customs wheresoever they are cherished, even though they be threatened by SOUTH AMERICAN tyrants!!

GO FORTH with our good wishes,

MAY the weather be fine,

MAY the neighbouring parishes be hospitable,

MAY the ale be plentiful and good.

EXCEPT our modest donation to your charity and our supplications to the GOOD BISHOP.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

It would become a tradition for the assembled dancers to shout out "OH NO! OH NO! OH NO!" in reply to Tom's OYEZ! introduction. It was also a tradition for Tom to include something of a current political nature in his missive; in this case The Falklands War.



Left: The 1982 'Gate' pottery mug was organised by Terry Paling who would become Squire of DMM in September 1982.



Ted Hutchby receives the 'Southwell Pence' from the Lord Mayor while Bob stands proudly by.



A dance before setting off by Dolphin while a few Foresters look on

At the DMM 1982 AGM Bob Hine's bagman's report included, *'The Gate to Southwell was held for the second time (since its revival) on 29th May. Five sides took part, including Broadstone for the first time. We were lucky to have excellent weather. The format of last year was retained, with the addition of a feast at Rolleston Village Hall, attended by most participants. A total of £1320 was raised for the charity, 'Smile Don't Stare' the friends of the Greenwood Children's Unit at the Children's Hospital. I hope that the Gate will now become an annual event – next years is scheduled for Saturday 21st May.'*



Tom Huggon welcomes the procession reading from the scroll

Ted Hutchby steps out with the cross



Some of Dolphin break into a dance while others consider the options



Ian Ambrose in his DMM 1982 AGM Squire's report said,
'...but once again the event of the year must be the Gate to Southwell raising over £1000 for the 'Smile Don't Stare' charity. The event seems to be becoming recognised as a Nottinghamshire event once again and rightly so'.

In an undated memory from Bob Hine re 'an early Gate' Bob says,
'One early memory I have is that on one of the first Gates we were dancing along the stretch between Bleasby and Hoveringham, quite near the river. There was a farmer in his field with a hoe, 'singling' his sugar beet and minding his own business. Then he saw six flower-bedecked hats emerge over the top of the hedge and then disappear, only to reappear in a moment as the dancers capered along the lane to the sound of a melodeon. He looked quite spaced out, as though some Martian's had just landed. Well the Gate's still going, but I doubt if any sugar beet get the hand's on treatment anymore.'

DMM being unable to decide who would dance a jig they all did!



On June 27th 1982 DMM danced at the 'Strawberry Fayre' at the City Hospital and during that occasion Bob Hine took the opportunity to present the Gate to Southwell cheque to the Greenwood Children's Unit and the Smile Don't Stare charity.

In an undated letter from the "Smile Don't Stare" charity, the secretary Sue Smith said:

*'Dear Mr Hine,
Thank you very much for your letter and cheque to the value of £623 raised from the "Gate to Southwell" 1982. This donation is of course of tremendous help to our fund raising efforts, which, this year are concentrated on providing a "resource centre".
We would also like to thank you most sincerely for appearing at our annual Strawberry Fayre, where as usual we experienced a very enjoyable display from the Morrismen.
Thank you once again for all your help in our fund raising.
Yours sincerely, Sue Smith'*



Nick Murphy on his first Gate stops for a pint, old stagers stop for a sleep



The Gate procession arrives still fresh at the Minster

The NTMC in a newsletter dated just 'July 1982' and under the heading "Special Message from our Ex Organiser":

'As many of you will know, Saturday 29th May 1982, saw the 2nd "Gate to Southwell" procession, organised by Bob Hine of the Dolphin Morrismen. Apart from the dance and ritual aspects of the day, one of the primary objects of the occasion was to raise money for charity – this year, the Children's Unit of the City Hospital. Bob had hoped to raise about £600 but, due to energetic collecting, generous sponsors and not least, first class weather, the total has crept up to a staggering £1200.

NTMC would like to applaud Bob Hine, the dancers of Dolphin, Micklebarrow, Foresters and Broadstone, and the costumed walkers, on this meritorious achievement.

On a personal note, Terry Paling, John Whitelaw, Pat Brett, Chris Orme and Hickey Cheers from the club would like to thank all those from upstairs and downstairs who sponsored them, and to give a small 'dig' to those sponsors who still have to cough up!'



On July 15th 1982 Bob Hine issued a press notice under the heading, 'Marathon Dance in Notts':
'Local Morrismen danced all the way from Nottingham to Southwell on Saturday 29 May. They were recreating a traditional Nottinghamshire Whitsuntide procession known as the "Gate to Southwell". The annual procession is a local custom which dates back to 1109. For more than 500 years people from all over Nottinghamshire made the journey to Southwell Minster to present alms and to enjoy the local fair. In the 16th Century, Morris Dancers were paid to provide entertainment on the way.

The "Gate to Southwell" was revived in 1981 after a lapse of some 200 years. This year's procession was organised by Nottinghamshire's Dolphin Morrismen. Dancing with them in relays were two other Nottingham sides – Foresters and Clifton Grove – and two county sides p the Micklebarrow men from Southwell and the Broadstone men from

Retford. The 70 dancers and musicians were accompanied by a colourful troupe of sponsored walkers in 16th Century costume, helping to create the atmosphere of the ancient procession. In keeping with tradition, the Lord Mayor of Nottingham saw the procession on its way from the Old Market Square. Nine hours later, the "Gate" reached Southwell Minster, having passed through Sneinton, Carlton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby, Goverton and Fiskerton, a journey of about 20 miles. At the Minster, the dancers handed over to the Chapter Clerk the alms known as the "Southwell Pence". This year's "Gate to Southwell" raised a total of £1318 for the "Smile Don't Stare" Fund of the Friends of the Greenwood Children's Centre at the City Hospital. The money came from sponsorship of the dancers and walkers, and from a collection along the route.'

Presented to Bob and Anne Hine by DMM for his work in organising the Gate



The programme reminded dancers and sponsored walkers to:
'repair to the nearby Bramley Apple in Church street, where they may quench their thirst with a pint of beer provided free of charge to bona fide participants by the generosity of the Home Brewery company Limited. Thus refreshed a dance or two will be in order, before the feast. The feast and ceilidh will be held at Rolleston Village Hall from 7.30pm. Callers and musicians should contact Eric Foxley'

To the Bramley Apple the men repair, drink, and dance before the feast



Above : No ticket and no Feast, Tea, or Beer

NTMC newsletter carried a request in the issue produced on 17th September 1982; *'The highly successful 'Gate to Southwell' requires assistance! Ready for next May's dance the Gate to Southwell committee have decided to have a special banner made. If you are able to submit something in the way of a design for the banner your ideas would be more than welcome'*.

No one can resist a request or a challenge like that can they?



CHAPTER FOUR

1983 THE GATE GETS A BANNER

May 21st the 3rd Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Micklebarrow, Broadstone, Selston

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare and £2300 was raised in 1983



The badge design of a pair of sore feet was provided by Joe Oskiewicz a DMM who presumably drew them from bitter experience!

The Feast and ceilidh were held at Lowdham village hall from 7.30pm. Eric Foxley of the Foresters Morris Men was once more the contact for callers and musicians for the ceilidh.

A letter dated 15th March 1983 from Bob Hine to Tom Huggon records:

Dear Tom,

I am again writing to you to ask for a wayleave for the Gate to Southwell to pass through your historic parish on Saturday 21st May at 10.00am.

We very much enjoyed your proclamation last year – those patriotic sentiments gladdened our hearts. I should add that they were captured on celluloid – well video by our cameraman.

Yours sincerely

Bob Hine

Tom Huggon replied in a letter dated 16th April 1983:

Dear Bob,

THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL

The Sneinton Environmental Society are prepare[ing] their annual humble greeting and will be pleased to proclaim it at The Hermitage at 10 am on the 21st May.

As is always the case, now that people are becoming familiar with the recent resurrection of an ancient tradition, more folk are expected to join our welcoming party this year and we shall process with your team to the Greenwood Tree thereafter.

Do send some of your posters etc.

Yours truly,

Tom Huggon'

The 1983 Scroll has not been found so its content remains a mystery.



The Cross and banner en route to Southwell

On May 18th 1983 there was a small column in Loughborough Evening News regarding 'The Gate' but no photos. It reported:

**Dancing down
the miles**

For marathon run read
marathon Morris dance, for
that is what Bob Hine, of
Hoton, is organising on
Saturday, May 21.

At his behest, local Mor-
ris dancers, including the
Dolphin side from Kingston
on Soar, will be attempting
to dance for more than 20
miles from Nottingham's
Market Square to South-
well Minster, thereby
recreating an ancient cus-
tom, the traditional Whit-
suntide procession known
as "The Gate to Southwell".

It was first performed in
1109 and was held annually
for more than 500 years.
Bob found a record in the
Nottingham borough.

Bob Hine had the idea for the banner, and the kind of picture for the banner, and Pete and Jo Bradley took this idea and made it into reality. Pete said, *'It wasn't made in a secret place it was made in our house and as far as I can remember because it was being commissioned by DMM it was public knowledge best regards Pete'*

1983 saw the first appearance of the new banner made by Pete and Jo Bradley.
Here is the new banner with a smiling Pete on the right



As well as the new banner another addition in 1983 was the Southwell Town Crier Henry Howard who met the procession at the entrance to the Minster and did 'his thing' - Bob Hine provided him with a suggested script for his greeting:

"Oyez, Oyez, My Lords Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the citizens of this town, I do hereby welcome and greet the people of the 'Gate to Southwell' who by ancient custom have come to this church at Whitsuntide.

I call on Mr Bob Hine to reply on behalf of the Gate to Southwell'

[Bob to speak]

'My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, I now call on the Chapter Clerk, Canon Morley, to receive the Southwell Pence'.

Henry Howard welcomes the procession at the North Porch of the minster.



Broadstone Morris Men at their second Gate procession

Chris Rose informed me: *'Regarding the 1983 photograph - Back from left to right Simon Burgess Steve Allan, Bill Ferrar, Chris Rose, Max Neil, Front from the left John Brewster, Alan Gill, Harry Hopkinson and Ian Beattie (who I think was the then squire). This was a year with much drinking, I know I joined the dance William and Nancy in the Minster one year as the then squire was too drunk to participate it might have been 1983? The young lad at the back Steve consumed a lot of ale and as he had recently moved to Nottingham we got him a lift home with one of Lean Valley? Mick? He was very ill in Mick's van. Also Harry at the front had a remarkable falsetto singing voice and would always sing Sally Gardens in a session. He was in such a state when he got back to Retford that his wife never let him come dancing again'.*

The 1983 programme gives a brief overview of:

THE SERVICE AT THE MINSTER –

'In the minster, there will be a short service to commemorate the Morris Dancers and pilgrims who over several hundred years made the annual procession to Southwell. After the Chapter Clerk has welcomed the procession to the Cathedral, the hymn 'Staff of Faith' will be sung. There will follow prayers and the song 'Lord of the Dance'. A traditional English Morris dance from Bampton in the Bush, Oxfordshire, known as 'Glorishears' will be performed to the tune of 'Lord of the Dance'. The service will conclude with the hymn, appropriate to Whitsuntide, 'Fear not rejoice and by glad' and a reading from Joel Chapter 2, verses 21-27 upon which the hymn is based. After the blessing, the procession will leave by the west door'.

And then in

THE EVENING –

'After the service at the Minster, the dancers and sponsored walkers are invited to repair to the nearby 'Bramley Apple' in Church Street, where they may quench their thirst with a pint of beer

provided free of charge to bona fide participants by the generosity of the Home Brewery Company Limited. Thus refreshed, a dance or two will be in order, before the feast. The feast and ceilidh will be held at Lowdham Village Hall from 7.30pm. Callers and musicians should contact Eric Foxley.'



Here Brian the Selston Postmaster and Squire of Selston Morris Men presents the Southwell Pence.



At the 'after Gate' feast and ceilidh at Lowdham village hall Greenwood Clog go through their paces

Bob Hine's note regarding letters of thanks to be sent out has survived. Numerous mentions are made and among them:

- Letter to sides – thanks for participation and not allowing spirits to be diluted by the damp weather.
- To those who came to meetings at the Ferry – propose first one next October
- Cecil [of Foresters MM] for badges, organising Hoveringham stop, posters, and support.
- Cecil and Roy for postering and Roy for map
- Joe Oskiewicz for printing
- Pete and Jo Bradley for banner
- Eric Foxley and band for feast
- Ted for carrying the cross
- Collection £233 a record despite the weather
- Sorry about catering arrangements – ideas for next year?
- Possible participation perhaps, of Clog Morris to broaden display at specified stops [this is the first mention of involving women's sides at the Gate]

Letter dated 20th June 1983 from Hoveringham Parish Council,

'Dear Bob,

My Council discussed the Gate to Southwell activity at their meeting last week and felt that it had been most enjoyable to have you in our community.

We would be pleased to provide similar hospitality next year, probably on the 16th of June when it ought to be warmer and a little less wet!

No doubt Cecil will be in touch with us nearer the time to confirm things more definitely so that we can get the hall booked and the tea ladies lined up.

Yours sincerely, Jean Glynn'



Young Dolphin's at the 1983 Gate



CHAPTER FIVE

1984 'MARIGOLD' PERFORMS AT THE MINSTER

Jun 16th

the 4th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Micklebarrow, Broadstone, Mansfield,
The University Side, Selston



The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare and NSPCC. The 1985 programme reported that: *'Last year's amounts raised (net) for the charities were: Smile Don't Stare £460; NSPCC £385 plus £500 from the Medieval Fayre; and the Minster Centenary £100 from their stall at the Fayre.'*

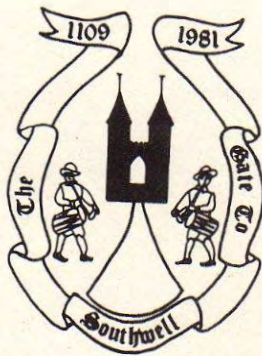
An early Smile Don't Stare booklet found by John Whitelaw (an active Dolphin until about 1985) while sorting out drawers prior to moving house

Dancing in the Minster was done by a team made up of members of the sides present; Dolphin's official animal 'Marigold' also made an appearance. Here we can see Dolphin, Nottingham University, Micklebarrow and Broadstone Morris Men dancing 'Glorishears' from Bampton, Oxon.



THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL

SATURDAY 16TH JUNE



The local morris dance teams will dance the 20 miles from Nottingham to Southwell Minster (accompanied by 16th Century walkers) to recreate the traditional Whitsuntide procession

HERE AT

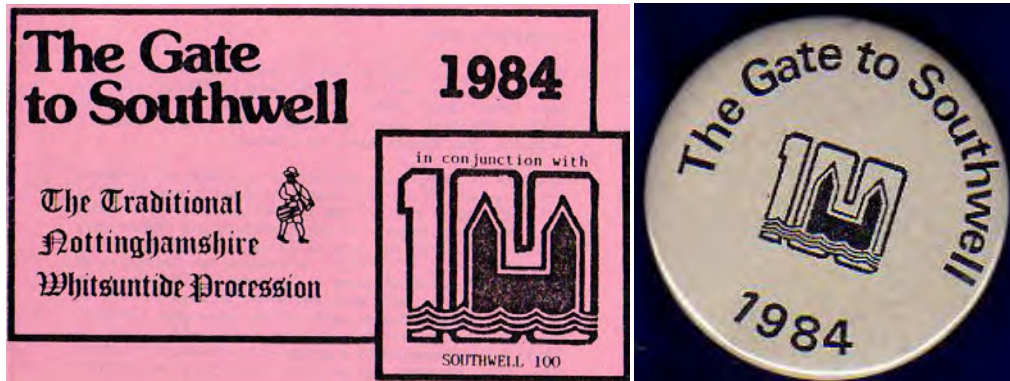
Collection in aid of **SMILE DON'T STARE** organised by The Friends of the Greenwood Childrens Centre, City Hospital

A Mediaeval Fayre - will be held in conjunction with the **Gate to Southwell** at the Old Rectory, Thurgarton (on A608 between Lowdham and Southwell) 2 pm - 5 pm on 16th June - Craft displays * clog dancers * sidestalls

The 1983 'Gate' programme informed that:

'Next year will be a special year for the Gate, since 1984 sees the centenary of the Southwell Diocese, and the Minster's status as a cathedral. The 'Southwell 100' committee is organising a series of commemorative events and the Gate to Southwell will be part of the official centenary programme. Because of the centenary events, the Gate will be held on the Saturday at the end of Whit-week, 16th June 1984'.

Below: The badge design was done by Bob Hine using the 'Southwell 100' logo which was devised to celebrate the centenary of Southwell Minster becoming a Cathedral.



Aidley's danced at the Medieval Fayre (organised by the NSPCC) which was held at The Old Rectory at Thurgarton, but not in the procession proper— the Gate had previously only involved all male sides and it would be another year before a female actually danced the route. This innovation would not meet with unanimous support from all the original Gate sides and even within the ranks of DMM the odd eyebrow would be raised!

An Aidley's dancer, Linda Hewing, has admitted that their side did actually form up at the back of the procession and dance for a short distance 'unofficially' – this act of mild anarchy no doubt appealed to their wicked side, but appears to have gone ahead without apparent comment or photographic evidence.

Linda said. *'Ex Aidley's people - I thought that Aidley's **did** dance in 1984. We unofficially 'gate-crashed' the tail-end of the procession through Southwell after we had done the fayre in Thurgarton. Then we did the Gate proper, the following year, with Nottingham Pride and Sgt Musgrave's.'*



In Tom Huggon's letter of 31st March 1984 he says:

'Dear Bob, the Gate to Southwell

Thank you for your letter of 27th February. I confirm that your procession will be allowed passage through our parish without let or hindrance as before and that a proclamation will be read on your arrival at the Hermitage so that the locals know how to behave when they see you pass by. We shall also be delighted to come to the Medieval Market at Thurgarton. Do send the posters in due time,

Yours truly, Tom'



The reading of the 1984 scroll by Tom Huggon at Sneinton Community Centre. Tom's words and the scroll have been lost but it is hoped that one day the missing scroll will turn up



The procession arrives at Thurgarton

Aidley's performing at Thurgarton where they were the 'resident' entertainers for the NSPCC Medieval Fayre held at The Old Rectory



In the 1984 programme Bob says:

'Let us hope that June 1984 turns out to be drier than May 1983 (Dolphins were of course in their element, swimming from Burton Joyce to Lowdham).'

Bob goes on:

'The 1984 procession is special for a number of reasons. Firstly, all of the Nottinghamshire men's Morris sides will be taking part in the procession, and we extend a warm welcome this year to the Mansfield and University teams. Secondly, the Gate is being held in conjunction with Southwell 100, which celebrates the centenary of Southwell Minster becoming a Cathedral. Thirdly, we are hoping to have more sponsored walkers

as well as dancers than have taken part in the procession before. In addition to our friends from 'Smile Don't Stare', we shall be accompanied by a group of sponsored walkers from the National Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) which is also in its centenary year.

Fourthly, as a new venture for the Gate, NSPCC is organising a Medieval Fayre at the Old Rectory, Thurgarton. Amongst the attractions will be craft stalls, children's amusements, assorted side stalls and dance displays'.

Mayor Ivy Matthews addresses the procession prior to setting it off on its way



At the start of the 1984 event the programme says that:

The 1984 "Gate to Southwell" will assemble in the Old Market Square, Nottingham at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday 16th June.

The eight local Morris dance sides will give a dance display in front of the Council House. The programme will be:

- Getting Upstairs (Headington)*
- Balance the Straw (Fieldtown)*
- Shepherds Hey (Adderbury)*
- Bonny Green Garters (Bampton)*

The approximate procession timings were:

8.30 assemble Old Market Square
9.00 Lord Mayor starts procession (Ivy Matthews)
9.15 Weekday Cross (via Wheeler Gate and Low Pavement)
9.30 Hermitage Square, Sneinton
9.55 Greenwood Tree
10.25 Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton
10.45 Inn for a Penny, Carlton
11.20 Woodside Road, Burton Joyce
11.55 Junction with A612, Burton Joyce
12.30 Magna Charter, Lowdham
13.15 Black Horse, Caythorpe
13.55 Old Elm Tree, Hoveringham
14.25 Brookfield Drive, Hoveringham
14.50 Old Rectory, Thurgarton arrive
15.45 Old Rectory, Thurgarton depart
16.05 Goverton Turn
16.30 Wagon and Horses, Bleasby
16.55 Midway to Fiskerton
17.25 Bromley Arms, Fiskerton
17.45 Railway Crossing, Fiskerton
18.10 Brinkley
18.35 White Lion, Easthorpe
18.45 Southwell Minster



After the now traditional free drink at The Bramley Apple and a few dances, there was a feast and ceilidh held at The Southwell Leisure Centre from 7.30pm, the music and ceilidh was organised as usual by Eric and Joy Foxley. £3.50 included a buffet meal – excellent value even in 1984. Ticket only of course

NTMC newsletter dated 1st June 1984 informed folk Club attendees:

'It's nearly time for the Gate to Southwell. 8 dance sides plus some 16th century walkers (some of the dancers are quite old, too) will journey 20 miles to the Minster via several pubs on Saturday 16th June. Sponsor forms are already in circulation, proceeds to be in aid of NSPCC in its centenary year. By coincidence, it's also the Southwell Diocese Centenary, so it should be especially good this year. I hope the weather is better than last year!'

Bob says, 'We had two versions of the commemorative mug, one pottery, one engraved glass. I think that I remember that the guy who did the glass engraving came to the NSPCC fair at Thurgarton and did some engraving on site.'

The Newark Advertiser of 22nd June 1984 carried a photograph of Micklebarrow Morris Men and the caption read:

'DANCERS CARRY ON CUSTOM

Morrisman Mr Peter Bates from Southwell's Micklebarrow team hands a purse containing a token 25p for Southwell Minster to Canon Leslie Morley on Saturday to recreate a 12th Century custom.

Amid the Southwell dancers are the Bishop of Southwell the Rt. Rev Denis Wakeling and the Provost, the Very Rev Murray Vine.

Greeted

Dancers from six Nottinghamshire teams danced 20 miles from Nottingham to Southwell accompanied by a troupe of sponsored walkers dressed in medieval costume.

It is hoped to raise more than £2000 for the county's handicapped and disadvantaged children.

The dancers arrived at Southwell Minster in the evening for a commemorative service, and were greeted by Southwell Town Crier Mr Henry Howard.

The event, known as the Gate to Southwell, stems from a 12th Century custom where priests and churchwardens from each parish in the county joined an annual procession to take offerings to the Minster'.



A bird's eye view of the walkers



Holding up the traffic



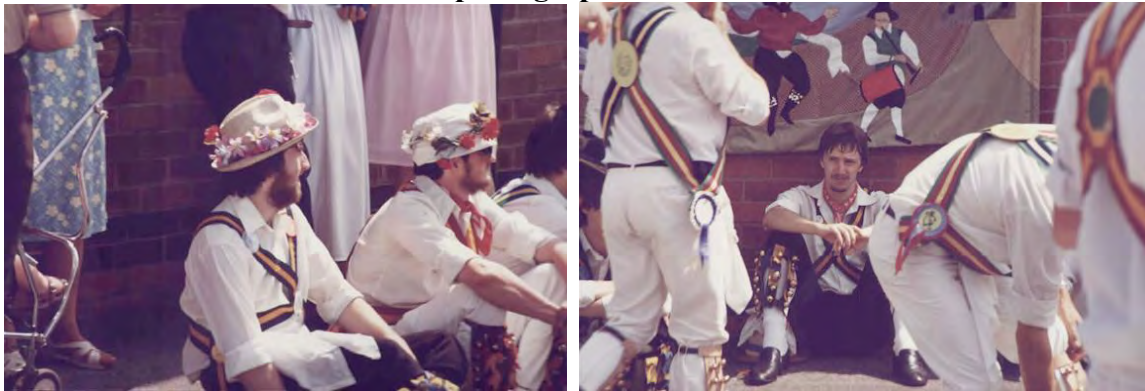
At the Minster and still almost fresh!



Ceremony at the North Porch of the Minster



More photographs from 1984



Photos from John Earnshaw a Nottingham University Morris Man showing views of the men in kit at Burton Joyce



The Nottingham University Morris Men dancing at the Council House in 1984



Dolphin Morris Men at Burton Joyce



Arriving at the Minster





CHAPTER SIX

1985

WOMEN AT THE GATE - IS IT THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

May 25th the 5th Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Broadstone, Selston, Calverton, University
Side, Aidley's, Sergeant Musgrave's, Greenwood Clog, Maids of Clifton

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare, Nott's NSPCC and Portland Training Centre for the disabled.



The 1985 badge design was done by Bob Hine.

The Lord Mayor David Tongue started the procession off.

The invite letter to dancing sides was sent in January by Bob Hine and stated:

Dear (),

This year's Gate to Southwell procession will be held on Whit-Saturday 25th May, and your side is cordially invited to take part. The format follows broadly the pattern of previous years – that is, meet in the Old

Market Square Nottingham at 8.45am for the Lord Mayor's send off, and dance in relays to arrive at Southwell Minster at 6.30pm. This year we are planning to stop the procession for an hour at lunchtime in Lowdham and to organise an extended dance display there, outside the village hall.

I should be glad if you would let me know whether your side is interested in taking part in this year's Gate and, if so, roughly how many people are likely to come. As usual, the day is FREE. In the evening there will be a feast and ceilidh at Southwell Leisure Centre. The charge for this is likely to be about £4. Again please let me know if your side would like to attend.

Best wishes, Bob Hine'

Bob's undated copy letter to Tom Huggon:

Dear Tom,

The weather forecast this morning mentioned snow on the way, so this must mean that spring is here and it is time to start preparing for the Gate to Southwell. This year's procession is scheduled for Saturday 25th May.

May we once again, have your guarantee of a safe passage for the Gate to Southwell through your historic parish? Our proposed route and timing is similar to that of previous years. The procession should be even more colourful this year because we shall be joined by a group of ladies' clog dancers.

I was pleased to hear recently from a former member of the Dolphin Morrismen, Denny Plowman, that, your windmill restoration project is flourishing.

Yours sincerely

Bob Hine'

Tom Huggon replied in a letter dated 20th March 1985:

Dear Bob

The Gate to Southwell

Thank you for your letter of 14th March. I am pleased to hear that you are gracing the parish with your presence on 25th May, accompanied by a troupe of clog dancers.

We shall of course grant you safe passage in the usual style and look forward to details of the time table, in due course,

Yours sincerely

Tom Huggon

NTMC newsletter dated 24th May 1985 reported,

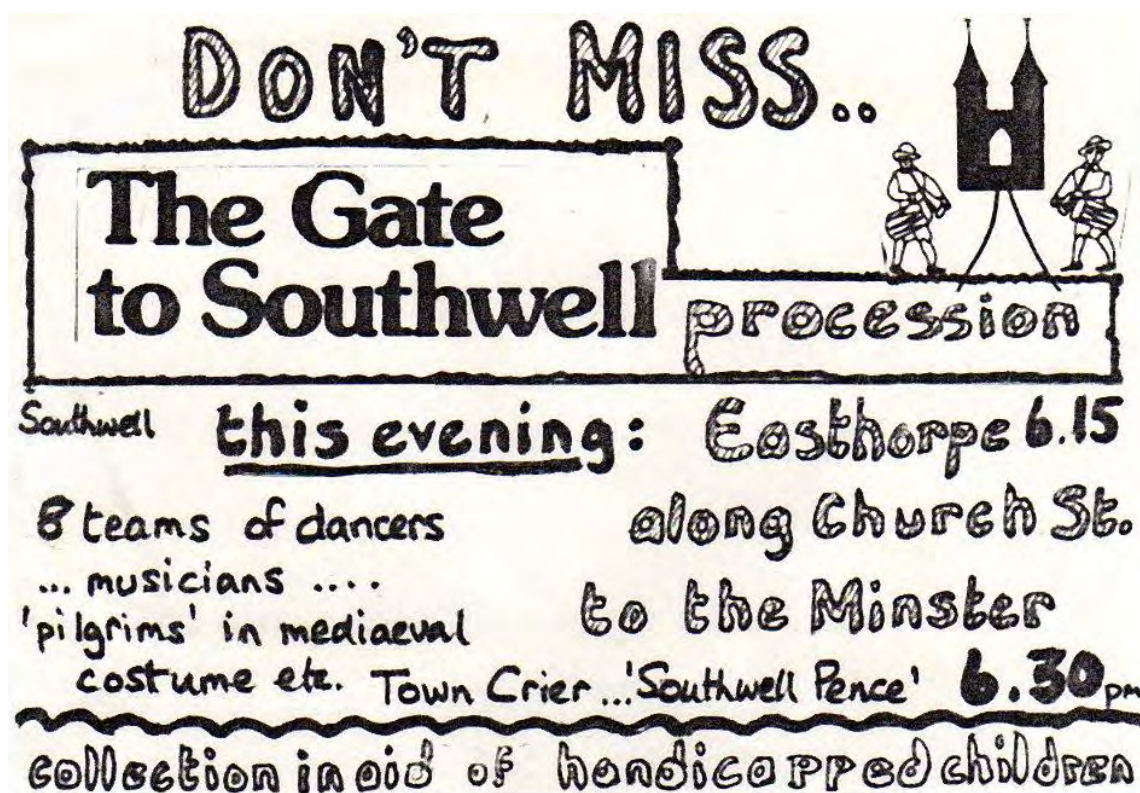
'Tomorrow: The Gate to Southwell procession the traditional Whitsuntide procession from Nottingham to Southwell. It starts at 9:00 am in the Old Market Square and finishes at Southwell Minster at 6:30 pm. Ask me for fuller details of the schedule.'

The procession originated as an annual trip to the Minster to deliver the 'Southwell Pence' – money to pay for the building of the Minster. The first Gate was held in the 12th century and the custom continued until the 17th century. It was revived in 1981 after it was discovered that Morris Dancers had entertained the crowds along the route in Medieval times. The Gate in its revived form is very much a Morris Dancer's 'do' with most of the local sides being represented. It is hoped that a sizeable amount of money will be raised for the "Smile Don't Stare" fund, the NSPCC and the Portland Training college for the Disabled. All worthy causes and I will gladly collect sponsor money or donations if anyone is interested'.



A wet Gate with Elly and Glyn of Maids of Clifton.

The Maids of Clifton weren't officially at the Gate in 1985 but an enquiry with 'Maid' Mary Marwick revealed, 'I think I can answer this one! The Maids have been going since 1979. We only joined the Gate as a team in 1990, but Eleanor Graham (Wilson at the time) and Glynis Burnett (Goodchild at the time!) walked the Gate once or twice in costume prior to this. I think they were with the Clifton Grove Morris Men, as Ellie's now husband, Pete Graham, used to dance with them. Ellie had always wanted the team to take part in the Gate but, ironically, we didn't decide to join in until after she had left in 1990. She has since come along with us occasionally, once in our old red costume, and sometimes in civvies!



1985 saw the first women invited to dance on The Gate and a press release put out by Bob Hine states:

'Morrismen are divided as to whether it is right for women to dance the Morris. Some claim that this is non-traditional whilst others argue that women have played an important part in the survival of the Morris. The ancient records of the Gate to Southwell are unclear on this point – back in 1530 it was reported that the Town council paid for the ale drunk on the procession by "ye dauncers", but didn't say whether the dancers included any women. In the last few years there has been a big increase in the number of women's traditional dance teams, and also of mixed teams, in Notts, and – reflecting this trend – the Gate to Southwell, hitherto an all- male preserve, will include a number of women's clog sides.'

A scan of a page from the DMM Gate to Southwell scrapbook;

The Gate 1985

NOW MORRIS DANCERS THREATEN A BOYCOTT

WOMEN dancers are kicking out one of Nottinghamshire's oldest customs by taking part in the previously male-only "Gate to Southwell" procession.

And the unprecedented move has prompted a handful of local Morris-men to boycott this year's event.

The Whitsuntide procession tomorrow from Nottingham's Old Market Square to Southwell Minster started in 1109 and carried on for at least 500 years before apparently fizzling out.

It was an old religious tradition when clergy and parishioners from Nottingham made an annual pilgrimage to the mother church in Southwell.

But in 1981 the 20-mile trek was revived by Nottingham University economics lecturer Bob Hine, of the Dolphin Morrismen.

Morrismen are divided as to whether women should take part, with some claiming it is non-traditional and others saying that women should take part because of the important role they have played in the survival of the Morris.

Mr Hine said it was decided to open the all-male preserve to women because of a big increase in the number of women's traditional dance teams in county.

But the policy of the national umbrella organisation for Morrismen, the Morris Ring, is that men should not dance in an event that women are taking part in.

"The idea is to keep the dancing as authentic and traditional as possible, and some Morrismen feel they don't want to break this tradition by dancing with women this year," said Mr Hine.

Ten teams from all over the county are taking part

By BRIDGET McLAUGHLIN

this year in the procession, which will be danced in relays accompanied by sponsored walkers dressed in medieval costume.

The procession will be started at 9am by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Coun David Tongue, when he hands over the "Southwell pence" in the Square. About nine hours later it will be handed over to the Chapter Clerk at the Minster.

Displays

At Burton Joyce and Lowdham there will be dancing displays and Mr Hine is urging people to come along and watch.

Last year £1,500 was raised for disabled children and their families at the Greenwood Centre at the City Hospital, as well as Nottinghamshire as NSPCC and the Portland Training College.

Women boot out men-only custom

From Evening Post
24th May 1985

Eric Foxley told me, *'About 3 individual members of Foresters were anti-women at that time. All but one have now joined the modern world! And Morris in Nottingham was kept alive by women (Frances Downing et al) in the 1930s. Best wishes, Joy & Eric Foxley'*



A fuzzy photo opportunity with Aidley's and Sgt Musgrave's in the background

At the 1985 DMM AGM Squire Ted Hutchby said in his report, *'As usual the Gate was a resounding success. I must say yet again that for my part it is one of the most important days of the year'*.

In 2008 Bob Hine said (after a question posed about involving women in the Gate): *'Dear Andy, Twenty years on it seems entirely normal that a folk event is open to all who are interested and is not restricted by gender. But it was mildly controversial at the time since it was clear that some in Foresters - who were one of the founder sides - were quite strongly opposed. As you apparently guess, the newspaper article was deliberately talked up. I always wrote to the local newspapers, and especially the Evening Post and the Newark Advertiser a week or so before the Gate. The Newark Advertiser generally sent someone along to take a photo - I have a copy of one of them, showing Ted carrying the cross. With the Evening Post, it was a bit more difficult to get them to write something about an event that is basically the same every year. So that's why I included something 'a bit more juicy' in my letter, which they happily swallowed. They say that any publicity is good publicity, but with the Evening Post it came at a price. That was, just before the procession was due to leave Slab Square, the Evening Post man would insist on giving the Mayor some handkerchiefs for a fake photo of him doing the Morris. It may be OK for one year but it became a bit of a pain when repeated every year (a bit like my horse jokes!).*

More seriously, the reasons why I wanted to bring women into the Gate were firstly that women's sides were the most dynamic at the time - already men-only sides were having difficulties recruiting. And in Nottingham we had some excellent women's dance sides, especially Aidley's under Barbara Murphy; this was also the heyday of Sgt Musgrave's as a mixed side. The more inclusive approach paid off handsomely as far as I was concerned - we had more sides and more variety with North-western and Border. We lost Foresters as a core side which was a pity but not life-threatening. If one thinks of the men's sides that have fallen by the wayside over the years, it is doubtful if the Gate would have achieved its quarter century. That was already obvious in the mid-1980s.

When we started out, it was an achievement to have a relay in which one side would dance each leg. But if we wanted a bit more spectacle, we needed more dancers, so welcoming mixed and women's sides, was the right thing to do. I also felt that men only events in the folk world were rather anachronistic. The women's sides have been amongst the most enthusiastic in maintaining the tradition of the Gate - think of Maids of Clifton and Anstey Royale Chalfont over the years: it's great to see them all assembling in Slab Square early on a Saturday morning.'

Unusually there is a write up about the Gate in 1985 in handwritten note form in which Bob Hine says,

'The procession assembled in the Old Market Square from about 8.45am. The weather was overcast, steady drizzle. Parking was reserved in Smithy Row because of work being fenced off - but most people moved the fence to park in the customary place. The Mayor arrived in front of the Council House accompanied by Consort (not his wife - too old?) their political persuasion was fairly apparent.

Roy Dyson organised a series of dances - Dolphin, Foresters, Aidley's, Sgt Musgrave's, massed Getting Upstairs - we cut out bonny Green Garters.

Then made the presentation of the Southwell Pence ['new' old coins because the usual set were still at the Minster].

The Evening Post photographer seemed unable to comprehend what was taking place so I gave him a programme, and he took the usual photo of the Mayor holding handkerchiefs. We then set off along the south side of Slab Square with all sides and a small group of walkers from 'Smile Don't Stare' and Portland Training College, down Wheeler Gate and with the Police at the usual places to see us through the traffic. Weekday Cross changeover fairly smooth and we soon reached Sneinton Hermitage.

June Newstead (publicity Officer for SHCA) had refreshments at the door so this eased matters and there was time for people to get tea etc before Tom Huggon dressed in his black tri-corn hat and assistant with top hat, tails and hand-bell gave the speech welcoming the procession. We left Hermitage Square about 10.00am about 30 minutes behind schedule and set off up the hill - the school gates were open so The Greenwood Tree was soon reached. The sky to the east looked grey and rainy.

As we made our way through housing estates we made a small mistake in the route, which meant that we by-passed the Police car waiting for us - but they took it in good heart and saw us across the main road.

At the Earl of Chesterfield several Selston Men had to be fetched out of the pub but we were now only a few minutes behind schedule. Carlton was passed without much of consequence.

We were on time arriving in Burton Joyce where the series of 10 minute displays was well under way. We left at about 11.50am having had coffee courtesy of Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History Society. Smaller crowd than usual, presumably because of poor weather but still satisfactory.

In Lowdham we made a detour down Main Street to the Ship again and there was a great crowd there by now, the weather quite pleasant with sunny intervals. The arrangements here seemed to work well with some people (mainly Foresters) eating on tables in Village Hall others eating at the pub.

The dance displays were slow to start, partly because the University were not fielding a full side, but had been due to start it off. Roy Dyson called up dancers and a good crowd thronged round. At 1.20pm I tried to get people into the field for photos with the idea that background would be clear of cars, vans etc – but not very successful. Next year get photographer to take photo of each side.

We then processed down Village Street, Richard and Naomi in wheelchair buggy. It was very windy and difficult to hold up the banner. We were held up at the level crossing at Hoveringham. It was fairly deserted.

At Thurgarton Mrs Farr met me effusively – she was at the gate with a number of guests and had a copy of the programme (don't know where from?).

The Red Lion was closed though had promised to be open for soft drinks. At Bleasby landlady said she would have opened if had prior notice.

At Goverton turn Foresters got the big drum out now that there was no chance of rain.

Bleasby caravan club on back road to Fiskerton, possible problem, also going into Fiskerton, but opposite the Bromley Arms we met the first horse who actually liked the Morris! Bromley Arms was open for non-alcoholic drinks. Usual procedure for riding school.

The Police met us before the Southwell races turn as there was an evening meeting (starts at 6.30pm). We were just in good time at Easthorpe; Police had us parking on left side. The procession through the streets had a good crowd. The Cotswold musicians up front followed by Cotswold dancers, then a short break, then Aidley's, a short break, then Musgrave's, then the walkers. We left at 6.15pm and were up at the Minster for 6.25pm. We had to wait 10 minutes because the service had over-run.

We were met by David Keene, Canon Morley and the Provost but there was no Bishop until June. Henry Howard Town Crier gave the welcome and I replied and announced the handing over of the pence – unfortunately omitting Foresters and the University side but these were then presented inside the Minster [note to self...next year get a ledger].

We then processed inside the Minster in the order Clergy, Choir then dancers and then after the service left by processing through the west door and to the Bramley Apple pub.

During the service Dolphin and Foresters danced Glorishears.

Dolphin danced flowers of Edinburgh at the Bramley Apple. After the free pint it was off to the social hall at Southwell Leisure Centre. A buffet meal was laid on for 8pm and we had entertainment from Ted and some dancing. There were about 20 people and we finally left about 10pm.'

The Evening Post (late edition May 25th) carried a small piece with a photograph and caption;

Dancing in the rain!



● Drizzling rain did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of dancers taking part in this year's Gate to Southwell, which was given a cheerful send-off this morning by Nottingham's Lord Mayor, Coun David Tongue.

Here he joins the Dolphin Morris Men from Kingston-upon-Soar to start the event in the Old Market Square. Ten teams from all over the county are taking part in today's procession, which will raise money for disabled children at the Greenwood Centre at the City Hospital, Notts NSPCC and Portland Training College.

Henry Howard, Southwell's Town Crier wrote to Bob Hine in a letter dated 17th July 1985:

Dear Bob,

I am writing to thank you for your letter regarding the Gate to Southwell Minster 1985.

All the people in Southwell said it was nice to see them all.

As you say in your letter a friend of yours has got a lovely photo of me, it would be nice of you to get it

Bob, I must tell you that I have been Town Crier of Southwell 32 years 1953 – 1984 and helped to raise £50,000 for charity and enjoyed every bit of it, meeting folks from all over the world and helping the sick etc and old folks. I am just going out to help the school as the children like to see me dressed.

I guess you know I received the Maundy Money from the Queen also the Silver Jubilee Medal at the Minster.

I have to watch what I do now, as I am 78 in August, but my way of life is (help one another).

Well Bob, here's wishing you and your wife and children all the best of luck, and carry on with the good work. Best wishes to all the Gateway visitors who came to Southwell 1985.

*Yours sincerely,
Henry W. Howard'*



Bob Hine said,

'The University Morris side (average age? - 20) are the only side to have danced the entire route. Of course many people have walked + danced the entire route. And I confirm that it was the Cotswold team who achieved this epic distinction, so we must be talking of 1985'. [1984 was the first year that the (Nottingham) University Morris side attended the Gate and it may be that Bob is mistaken when he says 1985]

NTMC newsletter dated 31st May 1985 reports,

'The Gate to Southwell: Last Saturday a group of Morris Dancers and sponsored walkers set off at 9:00 am on the long and arduous trek to Southwell.

This year there were more dance sides represented than ever before including Aidley's Morris who actually took part in the procession and were the first all ladies side to do so. Another ladies side Greenwood Clog also provided entertainment along the route although their field of dancing does not lend itself to processions. Prior to the day, one or two people, perhaps insecure in their own masculinity, had chosen to make the inclusion of ladies sides a controversial issue, but on the day, when it mattered the ladies were on top form and contributed greatly both to the standard and variety of dancing and to the friendliness of the atmosphere.

The procession started off in the rain and finished in sunshine at 6:30 pm at the Minster. The ceremonial handing over of the 'Southwell Pence' (contributions towards the upkeep of the church, paid in old money at the amounts fixed in medieval times) took place then there was a brief service in the Minster followed by ritual boozing at the Bramley Apple, free beer courtesy of Home Ales.

There were ten pubs on the route so I suppose you could call it a 'Ten Bar Gate'.

Money collected along the route, and sponsor money will go to the Disabled, and in particular, disabled children via three charities: Smile Don't Stare Fund, Portland Training College for the Disabled and the NSPCC.'

For some reason the Gate to Southwell in 1985 seems to have generated little in the way of photographs, the following two are all that have been recovered.



Assembling for the final leg to the Minster





CHAPTER SEVEN

1986
877TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GATE

May 17th the 6th Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Broadstone, Micklebarrow, Selston, Calverton,
Aidley's, Sgt Musgrave's, Leen Valley, Maids of Clifton

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare and Nottinghamshire NSPCC



The badge design was done by Bob Hine using a 'Domesday Book' theme for inspiration – a man of many talents clearly.

In a letter to Tom Huggon at Sneinton Environmental Society dated 4th April 1986 Bob Hine said,

'Dear Tom,

It will not have escaped your notice that this year whilst marking the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book, is also, more importantly, the 877th anniversary of the Gate to Southwell.

Accordingly, we are holding a procession on Saturday May 17th to celebrate this latter and only slightly later, event. We should be most grateful if you would grant us safe passage through the manors, socs and other appurtenances of your ancient vi11, and moreover would appear before our procession to proclaim the same.

With best wishes,

Bob Hine'

Tom Huggon replied on 26th April 1986:

Dear Bob, Gate to Southwell

Thank you for your letter of 4th April. The usual glittering reception committee will be in attendance to see you safely through the parish, although I cannot promise that we can find a parishioner who is 900 years old carrying a first edition of the Domesday Book.

Let us hope the weather is good for you.

Yours truly,

Tom Huggon'

John Crawford of Calverton Morris Men in their Gate attendee's acceptance letter said:

'Dear Bob, Thanks for the invitation to the "Gate".

You can rest assured that we shall be

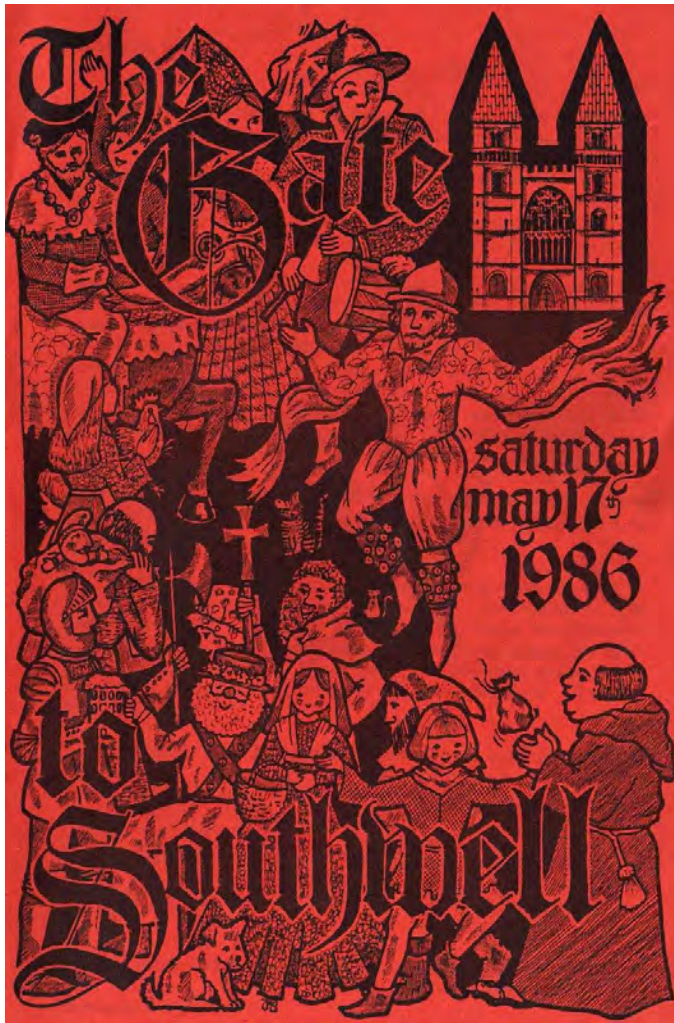
Attending even in the event of storm,

Plaque, pestilence and the Lord Mayor.

So be it.

Best wishes, John Crawford

P.S. There will be about a dozen of us'



Left: The 1986 programme cover

NTMC newsletter dated 16th May 1986 reports,
'Tomorrow...the Gate to Southwell... Nottingham's very own traditional Whitsuntide Procession. Starts at 8.45, with massed Morris Dancing, in the Old Market Square. Sets off after a rousing speech from the Mayor and arrives at Southwell Minster 6.30. Everybody welcome. All money raised in aid of the Greenwood Children's Centre and the NSPCC. If you wish to make a donation, you can give it to me and I will pass it on'.

Roy Dyson of DMM was in charge of organising the dancing displays and in his usual thorough manner produced a typed itinerary which left nothing to chance:

*'Extended dance displays
 Would teams please make themselves available for an extended display of TEN MINUTES at the following times and places.*

In front of the Council House, Old Market Square, Nottingham,

0845 am Dolphin, Foresters, Leen Valley, Aidley's

(All four sides to dance simultaneously – please ensure a discreet distance between adjacent sides)

0855 am All Morris teams to dance Bonny Green Garters

0900 am Lord Mayor starts procession.

Hermitage Square, Sneinton

9.20 am Micklebarrow

9.30 am Selston

The Cross Keys, Burton Joyce

11.0 am Dolphin

11.10 am Leen Valley

11.20 am Broadstone

11.30 am Sgt Musgrave

11.40 am Micklebarrow

11.50 am Calverton

Lowdham Village Hall

12.20 pm Foresters

12.30 pm Calverton

12.40 pm Aidley's

12.50 pm All sides to gather in field at rear of the Village Hall for photographs

01.00 pm Sgt Musgrave

01.10 pm Broadstone

01.20 pm Selston

Easthorpe

06.20 pm Procession into Southwell assemble in the following order please: Dolphin, Foresters, Selston, Sgt Musgrave, Broadstone, Leen Valley, Calverton, Micklebarrow, and Aidley's.

Thank you all in anticipation of your cooperation. If there are any problems please contact me by phone as a matter of urgency. I hope you all have a good days dancing.

Roy Dyson



Bob Hine seemingly not wanting to be left behind by Roy Dyson's planning did his own detailed list which included:

Dance in Minster

GLORISHEARS (Bampton) – one rep from Dolphin/ Foresters/ Calverton/ Broadstone/ Selston /Leen Valley

Please let me know if you can't supply a dancer

LUNCH STOP

Procession stops at Lowdham 12.30 – 1.25pm. Acting Bagman:

- Collect beer tickets here for Bramley Apple*
- Sign Register*
- Buy 1985 badges – 10p each*
- Pay Southwell Pence £1.50/side; a contribution of 25p/person for programmes plus 1986 badge would be appreciated*
- Group photo in field at 1pm*

Apparently (according to Bob's programme write up):

'Southwell was very gay on Whit Monday with the representatives of two hundred and five odd parishes riding into the little town. Whit weeks was long regarded as Southwell Feast Week, when merry village sports and other pastimes made a welcome break in the peaceful progress of the year. The greatest attractions were the donkey and pony races from Burgage Green to the top of Hockerton Hill and back. Nothing is left of all these enjoyments now, and the whole feast has degenerated into Southwell Races, which are held at Rolleston'.

Bob Hine's notes for his speeches at the Council House and later at the Minster have been kept for 1986 and are as follows:

Speech at the COUNCIL HOUSE

'My Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 1986 Gate to Southwell. The Gate to Southwell is the traditional Nottinghamshire Whitsuntide procession when people from all over the county made an annual visit to the mother church at Southwell. The procession was first held in the year 1109 and has therefore a strong claim to be Nottinghamshire's most ancient custom.

In the olden days the procession was led on horseback by the Lord Mayor of Snottingham dressed in his finest robes (although apparently he was allowed to postpone his trip if the weather was inclement or the roads were in bad condition) so we are particularly pleased that the current Lord Mayor, Councillor Frank Higgins and his wife are able to join us today to start off the procession.

The procession is of particular interest to Morris Dancers since the Nottingham Borough accounts show that in the year 1530, the Morris Dancers took part in the procession and that the Borough paid for the ale that they drank at all times. That of course was in the days before taxes on beer reached their present cruel level and before rate-capping reduced the Council's ability to support even the most worthy activities!

In 1981 the Morris Dancers revived the Gate and it has been held each year since then. We are accompanied by medieval persons raising money for 2 local charities; Smile don't Stare and the NSPCC.

One purpose of the Gate to Southwell was to bring the Whitsuntide offering of each parish to the Minster. These were called the Southwell Pence or Pentecostals. They amount to about one shilling per village. The bigger towns paid more – Nottingham’s contribution was fixed at one silver mark (13 shillings and 4 pence). By good fortune, the Lord Mayor happens to have 13s 4d in old money in his pocket, so I will now ask him to hand over the Nottingham contribution to Ted Hutchby the bearer of the cross. Ted will carry the money to Southwell where we hope to hand it over to the Chapter Clerk at the Minster at about 6.30pm’.

[At this point the Lord Mayor makes a speech of sorts and hands over the cash - All clap the Mayor and form up for the procession to get on its way with the cross at the front]



Calverton Morris Men dance Rodney



Richard and Naomi Hine watch with the younger Morris dancers



Broadstone Morris Men at Coach and Horses Thurgarton



Speech at THE MINSTER

'Lord Bishop, Provost, members of the Chapter, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Gate to Southwell I would like to thank the Town Crier for his welcome to St Mary's of Southwell.

The Gate to Southwell is a traditional Whitsuntide procession that dates right back to the time when St Mary's was being built – it was in 1109 when Archbishop Thomas of Beverley instigated the procession. The procession was a pilgrimage for people from the towns and villages all over the county, an opportunity for discussion of church affairs and afterwards to relax and enjoy the Whitsun Fair at Southwell.

We don't know when the procession was last held, before its revival in 1981. Certainly it was held in the year 1530 because records of the Borough of Nottingham show that the Morris Dancers took part in it – this is the earliest known reference to Morris Dancing in the County. 1530 was a special occasion because Cardinal Wolsey spent the last few months of his life at Southwell and no doubt saw the Gate to Southwell.

The procession brought with it the Whitsuntide offerings from each parish in the county, these have been fixed since at least the reign of Elizabeth I, at about a shilling (5p) per parish, with the bigger villages and towns paying more and the hamlets paying less – Adbolton escapes lightest with just 3¼d.

Even after the procession ceased to be held, the Chapter Clerk maintained the tradition of waiting in the north porch of the Minster on Whit Monday where it had been his custom to receive the Southwell Pence.

Today we would like to maintain the old custom of the Southwell Pence by handing over the contributions of the parishes from which the Morris Dance teams and the walkers come.'

[at this point the Bishop makes a speech of welcome and the Chapter Clerk receives the contributions prompted by bob Hine]



Henry Howard in glorious Technicolor welcomes the procession at the North Porch in the only way a Town Crier knows. Ill health meant that this was Henry's last Gate appearance

The service in the Minster follows this ceremony.

A flyer informs that, 'Afterwards at 'Bramley Apple' dance display and Punch & Judy' [Professor Ted Hutchby and his swazzle]



The all important FREE beer ticket

The Evening Post (late edition) on 17th May carried a photograph and short caption about the Gate:

'The colourful "Gate to Southwell" annual pilgrimage set off from Nottingham Council House today.

Lord Mayor, councillor Frank Higgins, handed over the customary contribution of 13 old shillings and four pence for Southwell Minster – a tradition from 1109 when the Archbishop of York asked parishes to help build a new mother church.

Councillor Higgins (centre) joins a fun send-off with Pc Richard Marcer, third left, Pc Johnathon Stone, third right, and Selston Morris Men Pat Brett, Paul Bakajsa, Ted Hutchby [of Dolphin] and Andrew Haslam'.

The Newark Advertiser on 23rd May 1986 carried a photograph and caption'



'PENNIES COUNT

Morris dancers and others who on Saturday took part in the Gate to Southwell – a revived medieval walk – watch organiser Bob Hind (sic) present Southwell Pence to Minster Chapter Clerk Canon Ian Collins.

The pence recall an ancient financial gift from the county to the Minster made at the end of a 20-mile journey on foot. Gate is a Norse word meaning path or way.

Despite the worst weather since the event was re-started in 1981 about 150 walkers completed the journey from Nottingham.

The annual Whitsuntide walk was started by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Mr Frank Higgins, when he handed over its traditional annual contribution to the Minster – 13s 4d in old money – at the Council House.

The total due to the Minster from the 205 Nottinghamshire parishes when the walk was last recorded 400 years ago was £15 18s 7¼d, a sum that is fully made up by the 12 Morris Dance sides taking part.

The procession, led by cross-bearer Mr Ted Hutchby, stopped for lunch and a drying out break at Lowdham.

The walkers arrived in another rainstorm at the Minster at 6.30pm - 9½ hours after leaving Nottingham – handed over the pence and proceeded to the Bramley Apple for beer, a sing-song and dancing until closing time.

Collections and sponsorship are expected to have raised about £1,000 for the charity Smile Don't Stare towards an electric wheelchair for a handicapped child.

Four NSPCC representatives, including Nottingham branch chairman Mrs Jenny Farr of Thurgarton, took part in the walk to raise money for the society.'

A letter dated 17th June 1986 from Jenny Farr of NSPCC informs,

'Dear Friends,

The 20 miles sponsored walk undertaken by Jenny Farr from Nottingham to Southwell was successfully completed. The generous support from so many and their interest for the vital work of the N.S.P.C.C. enabled the target to be exceeded and the magnificent total of £1,450.00 was raised.

Yours sincerely, Jenny Farr'

As well as organising the 1986 Gate to Southwell Bob was also heavily involved in trying to raise money for an electric wheelchair for his children, Richard and Naomi.

The Morris community rallied around Bob and took part in numerous fund raising events and activities:

- Dancing down a coalmine,
- Coffee mornings,
- World record 24 hour dance marathon,
- Dancing in an aeroplane,
- Parachute jumps,
- Charity evenings,

disco's etc. In the end the money raised more than doubled the original target. All in all a busy year for Bob.

Jenny Farr of the NSPCC posted a card, *'It was marvellous to take part in the 'Gate to Southwell' thank you.*

I am sorry to have been so long in writing to you but waited until my total closed – however it still continues to creep up. Hope Richard and Naomi are thoroughly enjoying their chairs. Best wishes, Jenny'



The ceremony of the handing over of the Southwell Pence in full swing

More images of the 1986 Gate



Above: Zoe is lifted by Foresters and Ted Hutchby assumes the pose

Ex Dolphins Terry Paling (music) and Roy Dyson 'gi' it some clog'



The traditional welcome by Tom Huggon and Community group



At Sneinton Dolphin, Broadstone and Selston Morris Men but where are the ladies?



The wonderful 1986 programme [see earlier image] cover was a design produced by Jan Carlton a friend of Ted Hutchby's. In a small space she encapsulated all the elements of the original Gate to Southwell; the Mayor on horseback, peasants, tradesmen, domestic animals, the music and dance, the clergy, the Southwell Pence and the Minster itself. Alongside this iconic illustration she also did several smaller cartoons which were used in the 1986 programme and interspersed throughout the pages.



In the evening there was the usual free pint courtesy of Home Brewery and obtained from The Bramley Apple pub in the normal way. There was dancing at the pub and for the non dancers there was Ted Hutchby's celebrated Punch & Judy Show but no one seems to have taken any photographs!



Richard Pykett recalls: *'In 1986. With Leen Valley as dancer. We had a good time despite the indifferent weather. At the service in the Minster, men from five different teams danced Bampton Glorishears together with Jane Haddock from Leen Valley. I believe this was probably the first time a female dancer had taken part in the display dance there. I was squire by then and would have had to take the decision about who to select to take part.'*



CHAPTER EIGHT

1987
TED HUTCHBY HAS HIS OWN CROSS
TO BEAR!

May 30th The 7th Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Foresters, Broadstone, Micklebarrow, Greenwood Clog,
Calverton, Aidley's, Sgt Musgrave's, Leen Valley, Maids of Clifton

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare and £800 was raised. £80 also went towards an electric wheelchair for Joanne Clifton.

The badge design was done by Bob Hine with help from Bill Cassell and colleagues who also did the printing. Below: Left, the winner and right, a rejected design [Bob did make one and still wears it on his hat]



In 1987 a new wooden cross came into use. It was made by Ted Hutchby, mounted on a pole, and painted white. The pole is decorated with tapes in Dolphin colours woven around it. The cross itself is decorated with hand-painted ivy leaves although it is believed that Ted had originally asked for some other kind of leaf to be painted on. It was too late to change it and so the ivy leaf design has stayed.



Mike Wilkinson recalls, 'The white painted cross was made when Ted was still "on the up" before he peaked and started to drift away from Dolphin and the local Morris scene. I have a clear memory of Ted being very disappointed with the leaves painted on the cross. He had specifically asked for vine leaves and not ivy. What he got looked considerably more like ivy than vines.'
Photo and write-up appeared in the Newark Advertiser on June 5th 1987:



1109 procession re-enacted

SOUTHWELL residents lined the streets on Saturday as these brightly clothed Morris men danced their way to the Minster at the end of a 20-mile trek.

The dancers had re-enacted the Gate to Southwell Whitsuntide procession which dates back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York wrote to each Nottinghamshire parish asking them to contribute to a new mother church at Southwell.

The tradition was revived seven years

ago after a gap of about 500 years.

The procession started at Nottingham and passed through Sneinton, Carlton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton.

The "Southwell Pence" originally collected in the parishes is now worth about £15 and was handed over at the Minster's north porch to the chapter clerk, Canon Ian Collins.

The event on Saturday was also used to raise money for the Smile Don't Stare Fund for the physically and mentally handicapped.

Last year staff raised more than £2,000 for charity and organiser Mr Bob Hine said he was confident a similar amount would be collected this year.

Picture by Advertiser staff photographer Nick Hill.

In 1987 a tree was planted which in subsequent years the performers danced around until it became too big. In the following photograph Gill Huckle holds the tree while Andy Wilkinson of Leen Valley and Barbara Murphy and other from Aidley's look on.

Mike Wilkinson recalls,

'One year we were passing that spot when we saw someone planting a tree. I guess someone made a comment about fertility dances or good luck and a few minutes later some of the dancers were dancing around the tree. Over the next few years, it became traditional to stop at the tree and dance around it. The tradition died out as the tree got bigger, and the bank and ditch next to it became more overgrown - and as more sides took to travelling by bus.'



Ian Ambrose said, *'That looks like the tree OK – it is between Hoveringham village and the gravel pits. We danced round it every year until it became impossible'*.

Mick Nesbitt recalls,

're tree planting- did you recognise Andy Wilkinson? The tree is at Hoveringham and it was the end of a line. The farmer's son planted it. The last time it was danced round was by LBR but the nettles had grown too much and the girth of the tree meant we nearly ended up in the ditch'.



Preparing for the Mayor's speech of send off
The Gate, the big picture



And they're off



Micklebarrow with Ex-DMM Steven Gee playing



Aidley's Morris Dancers and John Sweeney on his concertina



Calverton Morris Men



Broadstone Morris Men



Leen Valley Morris founded November 7th 1982 and their banner



A letter dated 6th April 1987 from the Town Crier Henry Howard to Bob Hine informs that he is too ill to attend the Gate. 1986 had been his last Gate to Southwell:

'I am writing to tell you that I shall be unable to greet you at the Minster on the Gate to Southwell. As I am under the Dr with blood pressure and age is creeping up (80) and I am having a job to walk. I am sorry to tell you, but carry on with the good work. I have been T.C. 33 years and enjoyed it and raised £50,000 for charity.

So convey my best wishes to all the Morris Dancers and here's wishing you good health and the family.

Yours faithfully, Henry W. Howard 'Town Crier' Southwell 1953 – 1987'.

There was the usual free pint at the Bramley Apple courtesy of the Home Brewery, and some dancing, but no feast or ceilidh in 1987.



Joe Oskiewicz in his DMM 1987 AGM Squire's report said, 'The Gate was as enjoyable as ever – thanks Bob. One sad note this year was when we lost Ted [Hutchby] due to an ankle injury sustained during the Gate, but not to worry we have subsequently found him studying for the Ministry, all the very best for the future Ted. The loss of Ted meant that Mike [Wilkinson] had to step in and take the part of the fool at short notice, I am sure we are all appreciative of the difficult task Mike has undertaken. Thanks Mike it is all coming together nicely'.

Bob Hine in his letter of thanks to Tom Huggon at Sneinton dated 5th August 1987 wrote:

Dear Tom,

Just a few lines to say thanks for your Society's very valued contribution to the Gate this year, as ever. We all had a grand day and were very fortunate with the weather. Poor Ted twisted his ankle somewhere in the nether reaches of Hoveringham but managed to limp the last few yards to the Minster. I am glad to say that he has now recovered even though he is rather cross to have lost his record of being the only person to have covered every mile of every Gate.'



More photographs from
1987: At Burton Joyce

Calverton Morris men
quaffing at the Cross Keys

Dolphin resort to violence



Greenwood Clog bring decorum



Leen Valley Morris and proof that Mick Nesbitt's beard was once dark!



Ted being Ted with a Marigold



At the Old Ship at Lowdham: Aidley's do lunch



Micklebarrow with a grinning Steven Gee pretending he can read



Foresters check if they can afford a round



Sgt Musgrave's and chips (or ex DMM Chris Orme as we call him)



The Dolphin boys looking young and svelt



Some sides caught off-guard



Aidley's



Forester's



Dolphin



Leen Valley



Can you guess who these are?

“He’s fallen in the water!”



Welcomed at the Minster by the men in white coats



The service inside the Minster



One man from each Cotswold side formed a set during the service in the Minster;

...One each from Dolphin, Leen Valley, Broadstone, Calverton, Foresters, Micklebarrow



Joe Oskiewicz proudly calls the figures



The programme contains an ‘organiser’s note which states;
‘Once again it is a pleasure to welcome a side taking part for the first time in the Gate to Southwell. They are a very special group and are based at the Gateway Club in Gainsborough; they will be joining us at Lowdham’. [Nothing further is known]

Random memory from Sam Millard of Rattlejag: *‘I danced with Broadstone before we morphed into Rattlejag. I was on the gate for a number of times between 1987 and 2000. Of the early ones my recollection is that the squires of the Cotswold teams got together to dance, usually something like William and Nancy.*

In the late 80's when I was young and green to the Gate I volunteered to drive the mini bus with Broadstone aboard. Oddly everyone else was very keen that I should do this. I knew there was a schedule to keep to. All went well until lunchtime. When the team had eaten a 'hearty pub lunch' I realised why no one had volunteered to drive the bus. I knew we had to be away by 2.00 so with 15 minutes to go told them that's how much time there was left. Then 10 minutes, then 5 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute. Each call was met with total indifference. On the dot of 2.00 I got into the minibus and slowly drove off. The last dancer joined us 50 yards down the road.

It didn't end there. It was a sunny day and you could see the shadow of the bus on the road. As I turned a corner the sun came from behind us and my license flashed before my eyes as the shadow showed quite clearly that some of the team were sitting on the roof!

After the next major pub stop I only managed to get half of the team to Southwell.

One of our dancers was Murph. He was the image of what the general population see as a Morris dancer. He thoroughly enjoyed the Gate but I doubt he can remember much about them. We reached the Minster. Murph staggered in and took up residence in some tiered seating that had been put in place for another event. As we sang 'My Faith It Is an Oaken Staff' there could be clearly heard the sound of Murph's snoring reaching a crescendo. Most of the team wanted to leave him where he was after the service but one took pity, and steered him to the entrance from where he 'homed' to The Bramley Apple’.



CHAPTER NINE

1988

GATE PROCESSION MAKES COVER OF SNEINTON MAGAZINE

May 21st The 8th Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Broadstone, Micklebarrow, Calverton, Aidley's,
Sgt Musgrave's, Leen Valley, Black Pig, Clifton Grove, Nottingham Pride

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare

Lord Mayor Councillor Martin Suthers started the procession off



The badge design was done by Bob Hine. Simple and effective

The dance at the Minster was 'Glorishears' from Bampton in Oxfordshire and was done by a representatives from each Cotswold dancing side present.

Bob Hine's letter of request to Tom Huggon dated 8th April

1988:

'Dear Tom,

It's April and there is a cold wind blowing in off the North Sea, so it must be time to start preparing for this year's Gate to Southwell. The date for the procession is Saturday 21 May, and we should be most delighted if in your customary fashion you could again grant us safe passage through the ancient and highly esteemed locality. Timings are traditional i.e. Sneinton Hermitage 9.30 am, presentation of Southwell Pence at the Minster 6.30pm.

In case any of your worthy locals has any doubt about the Sneinton parish contribution reaching the Minster's coffers, I invite them and indeed you to be present at the Minster to undertake the solemn task of handing over the said monies.

Yours sincerely

R.C. Hine'

Tom Huggon in his letter dated 15th May 1988 replied:

'Dear Bob,

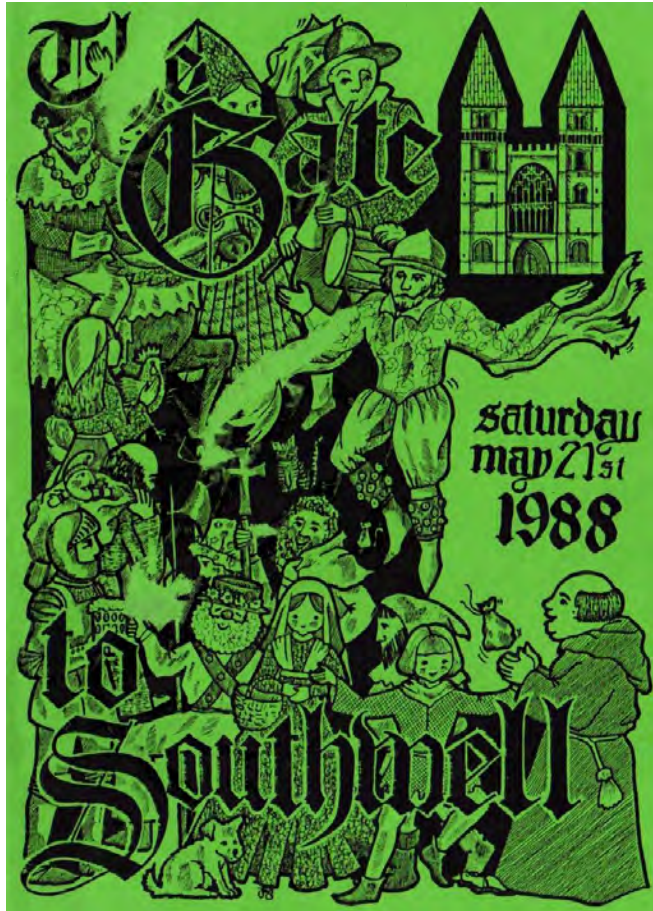
Thank you for the letter of 8 April. The representatives of the Society will be delighted to meet the worthy and colourful procession at the Sneinton Hermitage and subsequently grant them safe passage through the borders of the parish as on previous occasions.

Thank you also for the invitation to the handing over ceremony at the Minster in the evening. I am not yet sure if anyone will be available in the evening and am making enquiries. It would be nice for one of our people to be present. Assuming that it is not necessary to make any elaborate arrangements in advance, I will contact you nearer the time.

In any event, I look forward to seeing you all in your usual jovial mood on the 21st.

Yours sincerely,

Tom'



Rita Nesbitt of Leen Valley Morris had volunteered to type up the Gate programme and in a letter dated 29th April 1988 she says,

*'Dear Bob,
Thanks for sending the start of the Gate to Southwell programme. I have managed to type it so far; I felt quite sad to think that I wouldn't be part of it this year, as I remembered the places on the route and the pubs we called at. Anyway, I still have a souvenir of last year's Gate – my lost toenail's still haven't quite grown back completely! I trust you will keep an eye on Ted this year and keep him out of trouble.'*

Seen in the Evening Post May 23rd 1988:

'Morris men lead merry dance to the Minster

Nottingham's Old Market Square was alive with colour and music at the weekend when jolly Morris dancers jiggled their way on the Gate to Southwell.

The medieval tradition dates to 1109 when each parish in Nottinghamshire was asked to contribute to the building of a new church at Southwell.

The offerings – the Southwell Pence – were taken in a procession at Whitsuntide.

And in 1530 Borough records show that Morris dancers were paid to provide entertainment on the long walk to Southwell.

The tradition was resurrected by Morris dancers in 1980 (sic) [1981] and has become an annual event.

Nottingham's Lord Mayor, Coun Martin Suthers, handed over the Southwell Pence – 13s 4d – which by tradition excused him from leading the procession on horseback.

Morris dancers came from many parts of the county to take part in the event which leads them on a 20-mile trek to the Minster.

Organiser Bob Hine said, "Over the last eight years people of the City have come to accept that one day a year will be disrupted by us dancing through, and in Southwell people have come to expect it as an annual event"

All proceeds from the journey were donated to the Smile Don't Stare Fund at the City Hospital, which helps the families of children who have physical or mental handicaps.'

Photo at Sneinton Hermitage with Tom Huggon appeared on the cover of the summer 1988 copy of Sneinton Magazine (Issue No 28)



Bob Hine introduced the Mayor while the Lady Mayoress plays with Ted's bladder and dreams of the breakfast pots waiting for her when she gets home



Sergeant Musgrave's Dance prepare to entertain the masses



Tom Huggon and his entourage greet the procession at Sneinton



Black Pig at the Cross Keys before they discovered glorious technicolour



Dolphin 'Winster' while Ian Stewart whistles. Ruth King holding the banner was at this time blissfully unaware that she would eventually become a Dolphin WAG



Sgt Musgrave's and Broadstone Morris dance to make the crops grow



Calverton Morris Men follow the banner



The procession arrives at the Minster



The dance in the Minster was Glorishears, Bampton with a rep from each Cotswold side
The programme states that at the service at the minster '*Terry and Glenys Gill will recreate the atmosphere of that period with some early English music*'.



For 1988 a copy of the Minsters itinerary for the Gate ceremony has survived:

SOUTHWELL MINSTER

GATE TO SOUTHWELL 1988

PREPARATION: *mobile lectern to N. Porch*
 Area roped off outside N. Porch

SERVICE *6.30 at N. Porch*
Clergy move to N. Porch immediately after Evensong

Welcome from the Chapter Clerk

Response by Mr Bob Hine

Purses received by the Chapter Clerk with thanks

Act of worship *Introduction DPK*
 Hymn 'Staff of Life'

Prayers DPK [Chris Mellors R.I.P. Foresters, handicapped, Whit]

Dance

Hymn – 'Fear not, rejoice and be glad'

Blessing by the Provost

In 1988 Mike Wilkinson rode his unicycle for the first time at a 'Gate'.

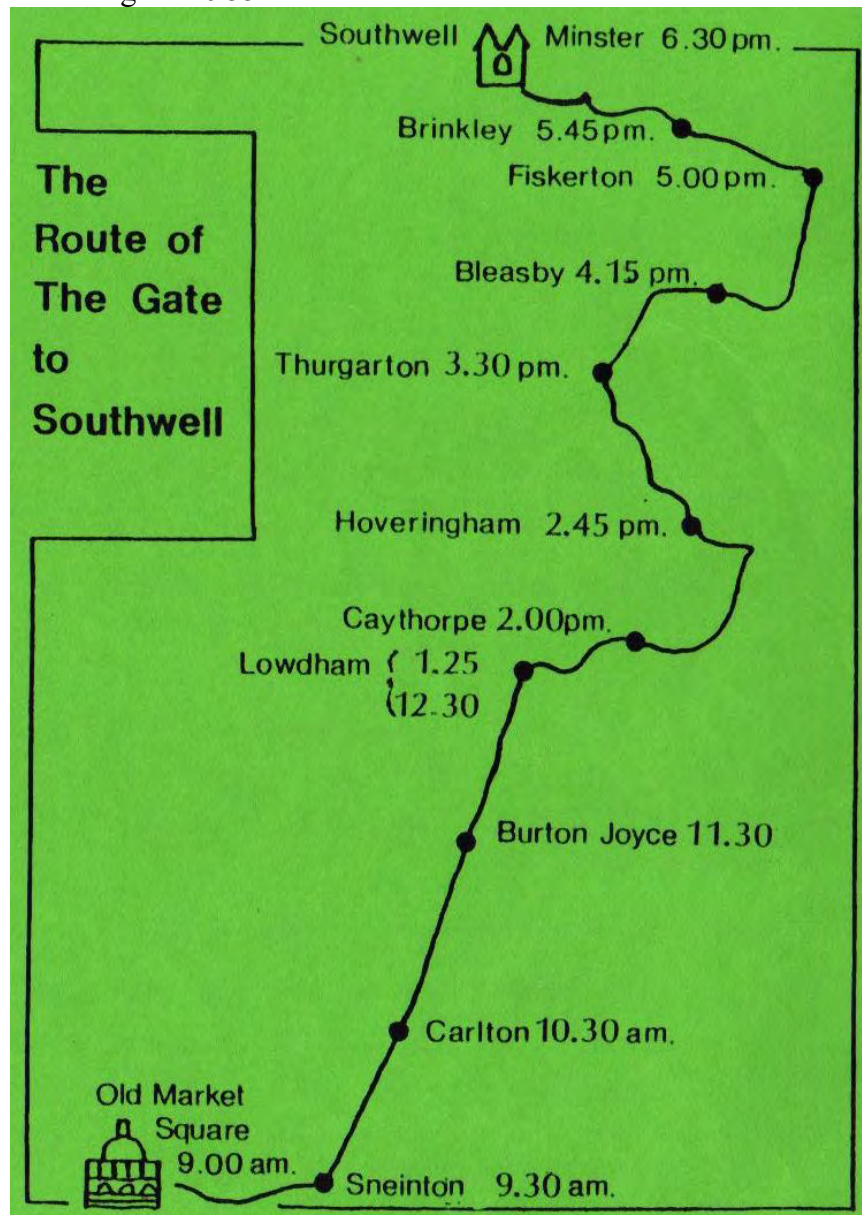


Joe Oskiewicz in his DMM 1988 AGM Squires report mentioned the Gate when he said, *'The Gate was as good as usual, thanks Bob'*. [What evocative prose Joe wrote and reading it again I'm almost there]

For extra security in 1988, Bob Hine prepared a double sided free beer ticket



The programme showing the 1988 route:





Mike caught hiding amongst the foliage en route, and he almost got away with it;
It was the chicken gave him away!

May 23rd and the Evening Post reported.

Morris men lead merry dance to the Minster

NOTTINGHAM'S Old Market Square was alive with colour and music at the weekend when jolly morris dancers jigged their way on the *Gate To Southwell*.

The medieval tradition dates to 1109 when each parish in Nottinghamshire was asked to contribute to the building of a new church at Southwell.

The offerings — the Southwell Pence — were taken in a procession at Whitsuntide.

And in 1530 borough records show that morris dancers were paid to provide entertainment

on the long walk to Southwell.

The tradition was resurrected by morris dancers in 1980 and has become an annual event.

Nottingham's Lord Mayor, Coun Martin Suthers, handed over the Southwell Pence — 13s 4d — which by tradition excused him from leading the procession on horseback.

Morris dancers came from many parts of the county to take part in the event which leads them on a 20-mile trek to the Minster.

Organiser Bob Hine said:

"Over the last eight years people of the city have come to accept that one day a year will be disrupted by us dancing through.

Proceeds

"And in Southwell people have come to expect it as an annual event."

All proceeds from the journey were donated to the *Smile Don't Stare Fund* at the City Hospital, which helps the families of children who have physical or mental handicaps.





CHAPTER TEN

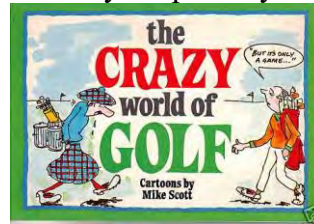
1989
KEITH BAKER MAKES A LIST

May 13th The 9th Gate
 Sides: Dolphin, Broadstone, Foresters, Aidley's, Calverton, Clifton Grove,
 Black Pig, Nottingham Pride, Leen Valley, Micklebarrow, Sgt Musgrave's

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare

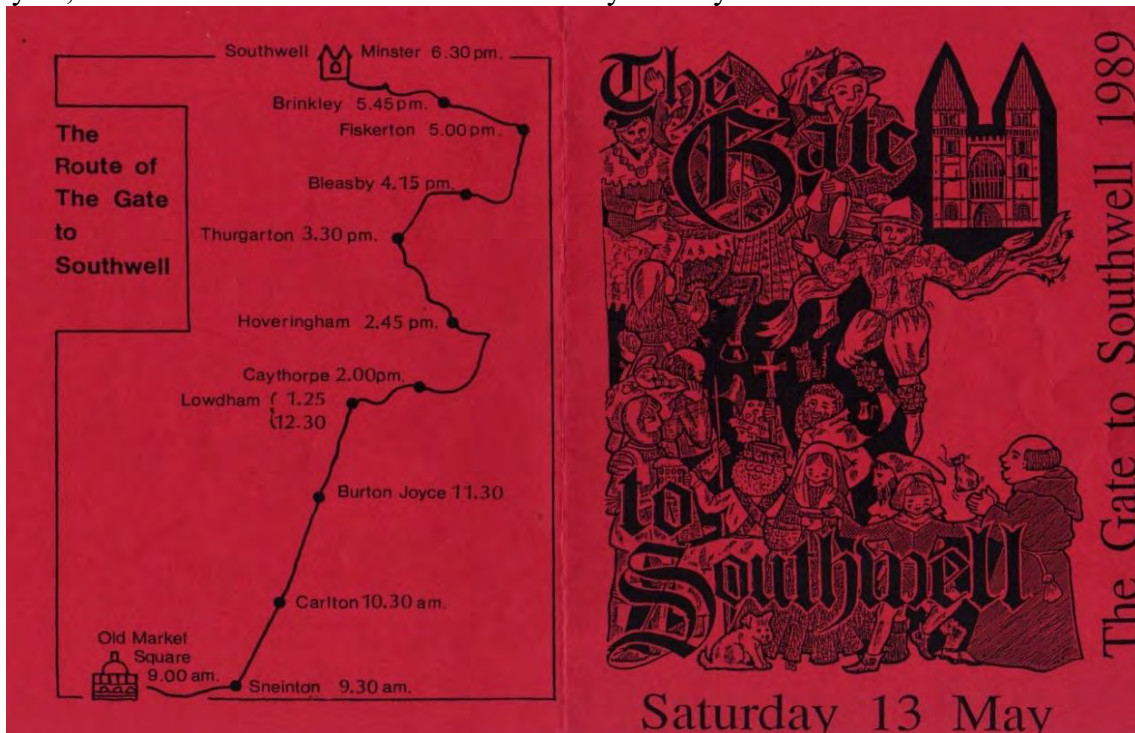


The Gate Badge 1989 was designed by Mike Scott a Dolphin Morris Man and a professional cartoonist. Mike did cartoons for Private Eye as well as other publications and has a book of golfing cartoons to his name – look out for one at a car boot or charity shop near you.



The date of the 1989 Gate was originally going to be May 20th but circumstances meant that it had to be changed.

In the programme Bob Hine said, 'Next year's procession will be the tenth – any suggestions as to what we might do to mark this auspicious occasion are welcomed as are offers of contributions to next year's programme from cartoonists, local Morris historians etc. A bumper edition is planned to make up for this year's economy version caused by a shortage of time on my part. After being obliged to change the date this year, I hesitate to name the day for next year, but rumour has it that it could be Saturday 12 May...



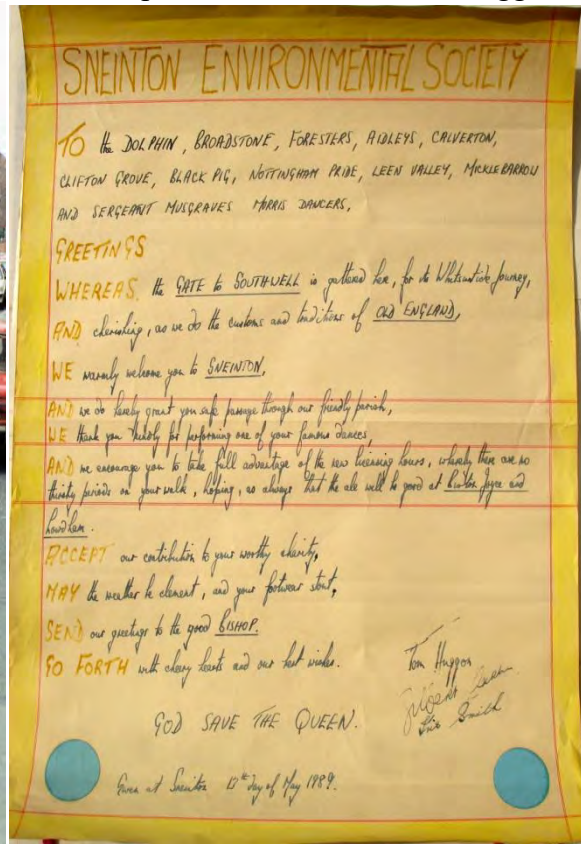
The Evening Post reported:

'Young Paul keeps an old tradition

Paul Mellors, ten, a member of the Foresters Morris Dancers, performs under the watchful eye of the Lord Mayor of Nottingham Coun. John Riley in the Old Market Square. He gave his impromptu display before joining his fellow Morris men on a nine hour procession to Southwell. It was the ninth annual Gate to Southwell procession. It is one of the oldest documented Morris events in the world, dating back to 1530, and gives local teams a chance to get together.'



The procession arrives at Sneinton, eager for another proclamation from Tom Huggon.



SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

“TO Dolphin, Broadstone, Foresters, Aidley’s, Calverton, Clifton Grove, Black Pig, Nottingham Pride, Leen Valley, Micklebarrow and Sergeant Musgrave’s Morris Dancers, GREETINGS WHEREAS the GATE TO SOUTHWELL is gathered here for its Whitsuntide journey, AND cherishing, as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND, WE warmly welcome you to SNEINTON, AND we do hereby grant you safe passage through our friendly parish, WE thank you kindly for performing one of your famous dances, AND we encourage you to take full advantage of the new licensing hours, whereby there are no thirsty periods on your walk, hoping, as always that the ale will be good at Burton Joyce and Lowdham ACCEPT our contribution to your worthy charity, MAY the weather be clement, and your footwear stout SEND our greetings to the good BISHOP GO FORTH with cheery hearts and our best wishes

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given at Sneinton 13th day of May 1989.

Tom Huggon
Gilbert Clark
Iris Smith

1989 was a poor year for photographs (or was it a good year for poor photographs?) and the ones received were almost without exception blurred. Those below are taken from a proof sheet and have been scanned and enlarged. The procession arrives at Southwell Minster in time to hand over the Southwell Pence at the North Porch:



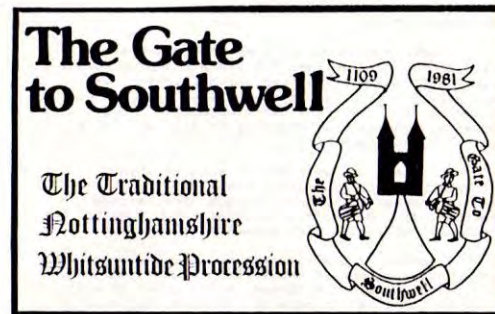
The programme inner sheet gives details of which side performed at which locations with Bob using his secret code which was known only to those people who were in possession of a programme. Years later the programme is once more made public and is reproduced below:

The approximate times for the procession, and the sides taking part in each stage are given below:

Dolphin	D	Calverton	C	Leen Valley	L
Broadstone	B	Clifton Grove	G	Micklebarrow	M
Foresters	F	Black Fig	P	Sgt Musgraves	S
Aidleys	A	Nottingham Pride	N		

all	8.45	*assemble Old Market Square, Nottingham
all	9.00	Lord Mayor starts procession
M&PS	9.15	Weekday Cross (via Wheeler Gate and Low Pavement)
BLA	9.30	*Hermitage Square, Sneinton
DCFN	9.55	'Greenwood Tree'
M&PS	10.25	*'Earl of Chesterfield', Carlton
BLA	10.45	'Inn for a Penny', Carlton
DCFN	11.20	Woodside Road, Burton Joyce
M&PS	11.55	Junction with A612, Burton Joyce
	12.30	'Ship', Lowdham, arrive
BLA	1.20	" " depart
DCFN	2.05	*'Black Horse', Caythorpe
M&PS	2.35	*'Old Elm Tree', Hoveringham
BLA	3.05	Gravel Pit, Hoveringham
DCFN	3.35	*'Coach and Horses', Thurgarton
M&PS	3.55	Goverton Turn
BLA	4.15	'Wagon and Horses', Bleasby
DCFN	4.40	Midway to Fiskerton
M&PS	5.05	*'Bromley Arms', Fiskerton
BLA	5.20	Railway crossing, Fiskerton
DCFN	5.40	Brinkley
all	6.15	'White Lion', Easthorpe
	6.30	SOUTHWELL MINSTER

* shows places where there will be short dance displays; more extended displays will be given at:



8.45-9.00	Old Market Square, Nottingham
9.30-9.45	Hermitage Square, Sneinton (proclamation from the Environmental Society and coffee in Community Centre)
11.00-12.00	Outside the Cross Keys, Burton Joyce (coffee stall organised by the Local History Society)
12.30-1.30	Outside Lowdham Village Hall
6.15-6.30	Massed procession through Southwell from Easthorpe to the Minster

At the 'White Lion', Easthorpe, the dancers and walkers will line up for the final stage into the Minster, where our arrival is timed for the end of Evensong at 6.30 pm. At the North Porch the Southwell Pence will be handed over, following a long custom, to the Chapter Clerk. The 'Southwell Pence' were traditionally the offerings of each parish in the county of Nottinghamshire to the mother church at Southwell, and they amounted to £15:18s:7d in total. Since the revival of the Gate, they are contributed by the local morris sides.

Bob Hine always asks for ideas for the next Gate and always gets a poor response but in 1989 Keith Baker of Nottingham Pride Clog took up the cudgel and produced a mighty list of ideas:

'Dear Bob, My ideas for the Gate to Southwell;

- 1 *Make it a full Medieval pageant by involving the following people*
- 2 *The Sheriff of Nottingham on horseback (from the council house or the Castle)*
- 3 *The people who do the jousting at Belvoir Castle*
- 4 *The Avalon singers (who also wear medieval dress)*
- 5 *The Robin Hood society of course (they could rob the rich during the procession, for the collection)*
- 6 *The Robin Hood Centre/showplace – eg adv. Costs or equipment load, etc or even a showcase wagon (plus leaflets to hand out)*
- 7 *Slawit Guisers (Yorkshire) and Gogmagod (of London) who dress in medieval/outlandish garb*
- 8 *Some people I know who play hurdy-gurdy/Flemish pipes – Linda from Chesterfield/York city Waites/Helen & Rick Heavisides (who actually live in a medieval tent or marquee when they're travelling)*
- 9 *Civil War societies/Sealed Knot; presumably the Gate to Southwell was still being done when they were around? It would be nice to have a company of pikemen/lancers + standard bearers, drummers etc*

- 10 *Let the TV (Central + BBC + CH 4) know beforehand what is to happen so they can plan ahead if they want to be involved. May also loan out/hire out costumes?*
- 11 *Perhaps adv NOW on radio and via newspaper articles to see if anyone else wants to participate – you never can tell*
- 12 *I think a medieval procession would have had a supplies/victuals horse and cart too – would be nice to have one (at the back of the procession preferably!)*
- 13 *Mummers Players e.g. Owd Oss...*
- 14 *Notify amateur photographers/videographers – societies*

Of course I realise everyone must pay their own costs.

Perhaps they should all be made aware that ½ the company at a time need be on the road whilst the other ½ is advancing to the next stage by minibus, or that the whole company does alternate stages.

I'd better stop now before my ideas get really out of hand (I'm thinking of Goose-drives, anyone with a tame wild boar?, mock gallows by the wayside, pitch a horse-shoe...) ducking stool in the Trent,)Vegetarians) Pig-Roast!

A 10th anniversary cask (and bottled) brew of original ALE not beer ie without hops as it used to be.

Competition element: prizes to whoever collects the greatest amount of money, to anyone who dances all the way! But not for anything with a subjective outlook eg best fancy dress (involves too much time and argument in judging and invariably disappoints some, or even many people, See you soon, Keith Baker'

None of Keith's ideas came to fruition, but that didn't make them uninteresting.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

1990
TEN YEARS OLD AND AN INCH OF
RAIN FALLS FOR EACH YEAR

Jun 9th The 10th Anniversary Gate
Sides: Dolphin, Broadstone, Calverton, Nottingham Pride, Portland
Poklers, Micklebarrow, Sgt Musgrave's, Maids of Clifton, Aidleys,
Ripley, Ripley green Garters, Huddersfield Guysers, University Clog,
Foresters

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare
Ripley Morris Men and Ripley Green Garters were also sponsored and raising monies for The Children's Intensive Care Unit at the Queens Medical Centre



The 1990 badge design was again done by Mike Scott

Broadstone Morris Men were also celebrating their own 10th Anniversary in 1990.

Photos show that it rained! Documents show that it rained heavily!

Mary Marwick of Maids of Clifton says, *'Just one thing, I agree with you that 1990 was the first year that the Maids joined the party, and I remember it as being torrential rain all day - a couple of the team split carrier bags and wore them over their shoulders and under their costumes'.*

There was a photograph and write-up in the Evening Post on June 11th 1990:



‘Dancers step back in time – 1109!’

Bells jingled around the Old Market Square in Nottingham for the county’s most famous Morris Dancers festival which dates back eight centuries.

More than 150 people in traditional costume joined together for the annual Gate to Southwell procession last Saturday.

The trip goes back to 1109 when parishioners made an annual journey to Southwell Minster.

Traditionally, the Lord Mayor accompanies the procession on horseback – but this year the Lord Mayor, coun Chris Gibson, decided to wave them on their way after giving them 13 shillings and four pence to present to the Chapter Clerk.

“This is one of the oldest walks in Notts and perhaps in the world”, explained Bob Hine, organiser of the event.

“We’ve got most of the county’s Morris dancers here today”.

After winding their way through the City centre, the dancers travelled to Southwell Minster for a special ceremony’.

The 1991 single sheet programme refers to 1990 with, ‘after last year, the weather can only improve (I hope) – 9 hours of rain in one day is fairly unusual even by English standards! Over the years we seem to have had a very wide range of weather, though I reckon we are overdue a sunny day’

The media announcement states, ‘Dry weather is hoped for this year following nine hours of rain on last year’s procession’.



The 1990 programme introduction page says, ‘Welcome to Nottinghamshire’s traditional Morris event – the Gate to Southwell – which this year is being staged for the tenth time since the revival in 1981. Greeting’s particularly to those sides making their first appearance on the /gate: Ripley, Ripley Green Garters, the Maids of Clifton, Portland Poklers and University Clog, and to the Guisers from Huddersfield. The turnout this year is expected to be the highest so far, with about 150 dancers plus walkers. Smile Don’t Stare will again field a team of sponsored walkers to raise money for their holiday facilities for disabled children and their families. The Ripley teams will also be raising money through sponsorship on behalf of the Children’s Intensive Care Unit at the Queens Medical Centre in recognition of the help given to Steven Arnold of Ripley when he was knocked over in May 1989.

The Gate has by now an established format, but we have made one change this year in response to requests for a dance display at Southwell. This will take place at 6pm in the Market Place, and will mean that the procession will leave the White Lion at Easthorpe at 5.45 instead of 6.15. Please ensure that you are at the White Lion in good time otherwise you will miss the procession up Church Street. There has been some small adjustment to the afternoon times to accommodate this earlier departure time. You are invited as usual to repair to the Bramley Apple in Church Street after the Minster service, courtesy of George and Dorothy. Bob Hine'



Portland Poklers dance at the start of the day for the crowds!

Ripley Green Garters find a sunny spot on the Old Market Square to dance



The 1990 amended timetable to take in the minor changes was;

08.45 massed dancing Old Market Square, Nottingham
09.00 Lord Mayor starts procession
09.15 Weekday Cross (via Wheeler Gate and Low Pavement)
09.30 Hermitage square, Sneinton: address by Envir Sec
09.55 Greenwood Tree
10.25 Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton
10.45 Inn for a Penny, Carlton
11.20 Woodside Road, Burton Joyce (display at Cross Keys: 11-12)
11.55 bypass, Burton Joyce
12.30 arrive Ship, Lowdham (lunch stop)
1.15 depart
2.00 Black Horse, Caythorpe
2.25 former Old Elm Tree, Hoveringham
2.50 gravel pits, Hoveringham
3.20 Coach and Horses, Thurgarton
3.40 Goverton turn
4.00 Wagon and Horses, Bleasby
4.20 Junction half way to Fiskerton
4.45 Bromley Arms, Fiskerton
5.05 railway crossing Fiskerton
5.25 Brinkley
5.45 White Lion, Easthorpe, procession along Church Street**
6.00 Market Place Southwell – display
6.20 depart Market Place
6.30 arrive Minster

**A note shows that the order of procession was:

Ted Hutchby with cross at the head

Cotswold sides –

Dolphin, Micklebarrow, Broadstone, *Cotswold musicians*, Calverton, Ripley

Northwest sides –

Aidley's, Sgt Musgrave's, Nottingham Pride, Ripley Green Garters, Maids of Clifton, Portland

Poklers, University Clog

Walkers –

Smile Don't Stare

The Huddersfield Guisers will accompany the procession.

Mary Marwick on behalf of The Maids of Clifton said,

'Thanks again for inviting us and for all the organisation that went into the day. Despite the weather we all had a great time. It's really nice to be with all the other teams for a change. Most of our venues seem to be school fêtes '.



Evidence as if it were needed of the weather conditions.
Photos courtesy of Maids of Clifton

Bob Hine reflects in 2009, *'I think the wettest may have been the year Ripley came – perhaps that's why they only did it once! I did tell them that they didn't need to process in the rain, but they were not to be put off.'*

[Ripley try to get a bit of cover from the rain but the one umbrella was found to be too small!]



Ted Hutchby tries to play hopscotch but the rain keeps washing the chalk marks away

June 1990 newsletter of the DMM written by Mike Wilkinson says,
'The Gate, must have been the wettest so far, but the atmosphere and sense of occasion were all they should have been for the 10th. Special thanks to Bob for all his hard work in organising the Gate, Roy for organising the dancing displays, Joe for organising and driving the minibus and Mike Garland for turning up and to everyone for their generosity in giving Bob and Anne such a pleasant surprise with the gift and the signed card.'

At the DMM 1990 AGM Squire Ian Ambrose said, *'Our own events including the Gate were well attended by our guests*

but where were we? The Gate was the wettest ever known, very fitting for the occasion of the 10th. This rather spoilt the attempt to start a display in Southwell, although the spirit of the occasion was maintained throughout with a tremendous response to the presentation to Bob and Ann'.

At the North Porch it was business as usual despite the weather



Random Memory: From Simon Hopper when a Portland Pokler; *'I do remember one Gate, which peed with rain, not sure which one, but the Poklers had acquired a roll of bin liners which with a few holes provided some covering from the rain, especially on the long rather tedious bit after Burton Joyce. In the absence of any audience whatever the music degenerated to one random tune after another, with dance figures made up on the spur of the moment. Not our finest performance but it kept us dancing and warm!'*

[Poklers did the Gate 1990, 1992, 93 and 94 – so it was fairly easy to narrow the memory down to 1990 which was very wet]

Random memory: from Ronda Sims, Ripley Green Garters, *'My memory of Ripley Green Garters trip to Southwell in 1990 was that my husband who then danced with Ripley Morris Men did not think I could walk all the way. I was determined to show him and managed it. Alas I was too tired to dance when I got there!!!'*



A bit of a mystery: The programme mentions that the Huddersfield Guisers were on the programme of teams attending. There is no such team. The team are in fact the 'Slawit Guisers of Huddersfield'. Slawit is the colloquial way of saying Slaithwaite.

Even more of a mystery is the lack of evidence of a fifteen foot giant. There are several people who have told me that the giant was at the 1990 Gate, and that they saw him there, but for some reason no one seems to have taken a photograph! Not even the newspapers?

I've spoken to Dave Ellis who as a Slawit Guiser was there at the event, he tells me that the giant made an appearance at the Council House and that he was dismantled and transported to the Minster where again he made an appearance; he was too awkward to take inside the Minster. It is difficult to walk the giant for the whole route of the Gate, and in 1990 the rain was heavy so it was not practical to 'get him out of the bag' too often. Many Gate attendees tell me that they cannot remember seeing a giant, ever, never mind at the Gate. A mystery indeed.

Here we see Nathandrial the Slawit Guisers giant at another event. My question is how could anyone fail to see this character and if they did see him, how could they decide not to take a photograph. It's a bit of a conundrum to end the first decade of the Gate with?



CHAPTER TWELVE

**1991
MIKE'S SLAPSTICK BREAKS IN
MINSTER PORCH. IS IT A SIGN?**

Jun 8th The 11th Gate

Sides: Information was not apparently recorded (or kept) due to rushed programme and documentation. Sides that are known are taken from the Evening Post photograph that appeared in the newspaper and are: Dolphin, Calverton, Black Pig, Maids of Clifton, Broadstone, Micklebarrow, Nottingham Pride, Sgt Musgrave's

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare



The badge was another Bob Hine design.

A single sheet programme for 1991 informed:

GATE TO SOUTHWELL

Saturday 8th June 1991

Welcome once again to the Gate to Southwell, Nottinghamshire's traditional Morris event. For this 11th staging of the Gate to Southwell we have made a few changes to the arrangements whilst still keeping the basic format. Let me know what you think to the changes, and your ideas can be incorporated into next year's plans. Obviously we want to keep the elements of the Gate that people most enjoy, but equally I don't think that the arrangements should become totally fossilised – there's room for a certain amount of experimentation.

The idea behind the changes this year is to spend less time on the parts of the route that people least enjoy, especially along the main Nottingham – Southwell road, and to have more people in the procession through the villages. This cuts down the length of the day – we'll be starting an hour later and arriving an hour earlier. To achieve this we will all bus from Sneinton to Burton Joyce and from there to Lowdham, and will similarly go by bus from Fiskerton to Easthorpe in Southwell.

After last year, the weather can only improve (I hope) – 9 hours of rain in one day is fairly unusual even by English standards! Over the years we seem to have had a very wide range of weather, though I reckon we are overdue a sunny day.

George at the Bramley Apple is again arranging a free pint for bona fide participants – tickets from me. We should be there at about 6 pm. George has even put the Gate before taking his wife Dorothy, out to celebrate her birthday (one of those with a 0 in it) so many thanks to them both.

Thanks for your continued support of the Gate. We are a few sides down this year mainly due to a clash with the Wimborne Folk Festival, so I hope next year for an especially big turnout. Bob Hine'

Arrangements for 1991 were:

09.45 massed dancing Old Market Square

10.00 Lord Mayor starts the procession

10.30 Hermitage Square (via Wheeler Gate)

Bus to edge of Burton Joyce

11.0 process through Burton Joyce stopping at Cross Keys

Bus to Magna Charta, Lowdham

12.0 process to the Ship, Lowdham for lunch

12.45 depart Ship

1.30 depart Black Horse, Caythorpe

1.55 depart former Old Elm Tree, Hoveringham

2.20 depart gravel pits, Hoveringham

2.50 depart Coach and Horses, Thurgarton

3.10 depart Goverton Turn

3.30 depart Wagon and Horses, Bleasby

3.50 depart junction half way to Fiskerton

4.15 arrive Bromley Arms, Fiskerton

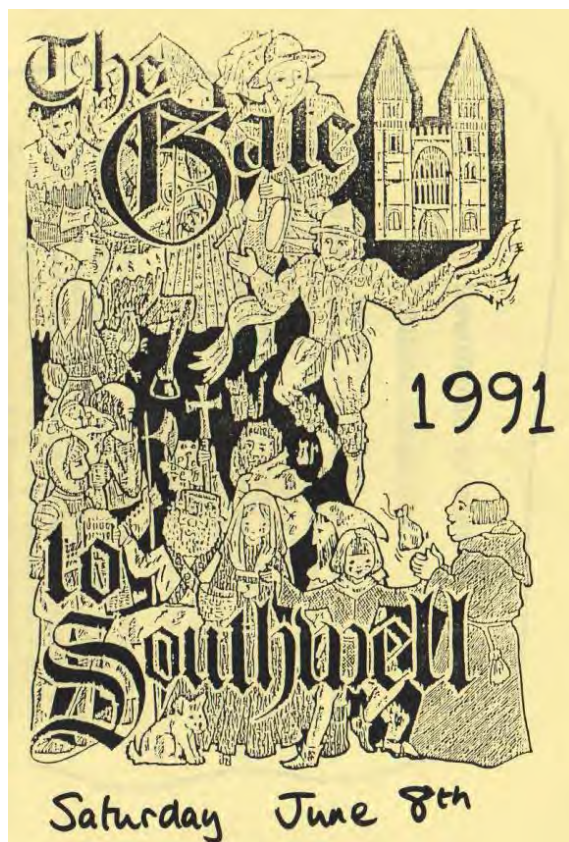
Bus to White Lion, Easthorpe

4.30 procession along Church Street to Minster

4.45 arrive Minster

5.15 process to Market Place for display

6.00 Bramley Apple



The 1991 programme cover.

In 1991 Bob Hine wrote his letters very late – the letter to the Police informing them of the Gate is dated June 3rd. Bob was out of the country and the arrangements had to be rushed at the last minute, but the show went on despite this.

Little information was kept in this year, the programme was a single sheet detailing only the route and timings, and very few photographs have been discovered.



The DMM's Newsletter dated June 1991 reports:

'Went pretty well, although with a smaller turnout than previous years. The format was changed this year, with a lot more use of vans, and a lot less processing. This led to a lot more drinking, but we coped with that.

The Lord Mayor seemed a lot more into the spirit of it than on previous years. Sneinton Environmental Society greeted us with the usual proclamation, which is always a highlight of the day. It's great that people outside the Morris community should commit themselves so enthusiastically to the Gate.

My slapstick broke in the Minster porch. It must be God's judgment on me for not believing in him.'

Left: Mike Wilkinson gets the Southwell Pence from the Lord Mayor

The spring 1991 Sneinton Magazine carried a piece about the Gate:

'On Saturday June 8th, Sneinton Hermitage Square will again resound to the merriment and 'musick' of the Morris Dancers and their followers, on their annual pilgrimage to Southwell from the Old Market Square. This is the eleventh year of the revival of this ancient custom. There is a change from the normal timing, however..... The throng will leave the City Square at 10 am, after a civic send-off, and will arrive at Sneinton at 10.30 am.

Sneinton Environmental Society's Welcoming Party will greet their colourful guests and will escort them through Greenwood-Dale School grounds to Ye Greenwode Tree Pub, where "fare-thee-well-Good- sires- and Ladies" will be exchanged, as our visitors melodiously melt into the distance.

THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL



PHOTO: Mrs Pat Massey

FROLICKING FOLK on one of their previous visits, receive the accustomed (and remarkably audible!) welcome from our very own 'Oyez-man', Tom Huggon.

Very few photographs from 1991 but here are two taken in Sneinton



Ian Ambrose in his Squires report at the DMM 1991 AGM said, 'I must give Bob high praise for trying something different with the Gate this year. It's a shame it didn't come off completely. I was also disappointed by the support shown by other local sides this year. I look forward to next year and the combination of the Gate with the weekend of dance. We should all give this our highest priority of support' [The weekend of dance failed to materialise].



Sam Millard of Rattlejag and formerly Broadstone recalls: *'In 1991 our squire at the time Alan Gill danced with the other squires (in the Minster) and I'm certain they did William and Nancy' [from Bledington].*

The Evening Post after the event carried a photograph and caption,

Colourful procession gets civic send-off



Beer flowed later but the traditional Gate to Southwell procession from Nottingham stayed dry. Participants were soaked last year, when it rained for nine hours, but mild weather held this time.

Up to 100 Morris Dancers and Clog Dancers joined the 20-mile journey from the Old Market Square to Southwell Minster on Saturday.

The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Coun Alan White, handed the Southwell Pence – the traditional offering for the Minsters upkeep of 13 shillings and four pence (about 67p today) – to Mike Wilkinson, of the Dolphin Morris Dancers.

The procession, backing the Smile Don't Stare fund for disabled children, dates from 1109.

This year, it wound through Sneinton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton, before arriving at Southwell about 5pm.

Everyone then adjourned to the Bramley Apple pub for a free pint.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

1992
MICK KIDNAPS DUKES DANDY MUSO
AND LEADS HER A DANCE

May 16th The 12th Gate

Sides: Aidleys, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig, Broadstone, Calverton, Chesterfield Garland, Maids of Clifton, Dolphin, Dukes Dandy Clog, Greenwood Clog, Foresters, Knighton, Micklebarrow, Nottingham Pride, Portland Poklers, Sgt Musgrave's dance, Stone Monkey

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare



Bob Hine designed the 1992 souvenir badge

The procession was planned and timed in 1992 as follows:

The morning procession –

0900 Old Market Square, Nottingham

0915 Lord Mayor starts procession

0940 arr Sneinton, Hermitage Square

1000 dep
1015 top of Sneinton Boulevard
1030 Burton Joyce jct bypass/old road W
1040 arr Cross Keys, Burton Joyce
1120 dep
1130 Burton Joyce jct bypass/old road E
1145 Magna Charta, Lowdham
1200 arr Old Ship, Lowdham

Lunch Stop

The afternoon procession

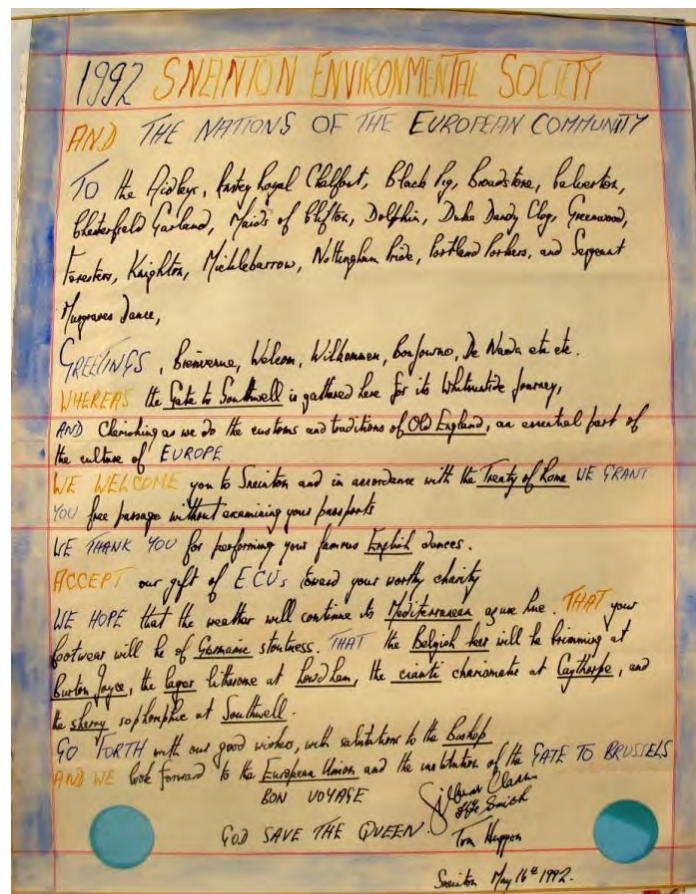
1245 dep
1310 Old Volunteer, Caythorpe
1330 Black Horse, Caythorpe
1400 Old Elm Tree, Hoveringham
1430 Gravel Pits, Hoveringham
1500 Coach and Horses, Thurgarton
1520 Goverton Turn
1545 Village Hall, Bleasby
1605 jct midway to Fiskerton
1630 Bromley Arms, Fiskerton

Procession in Southwell

1700 White Lion, Easthorpe
1715 arr Southwell Minster
1745 massed dance Market Place
1815 adjourn for refreshment at the Bramley Apple , Church Street

The procession was greeted by Tom Huggon at Sneinton Hermitage with another of his now famous proclamations from a prepared scroll... In 1992 Tom said;

1992 SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY
AND THE NATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



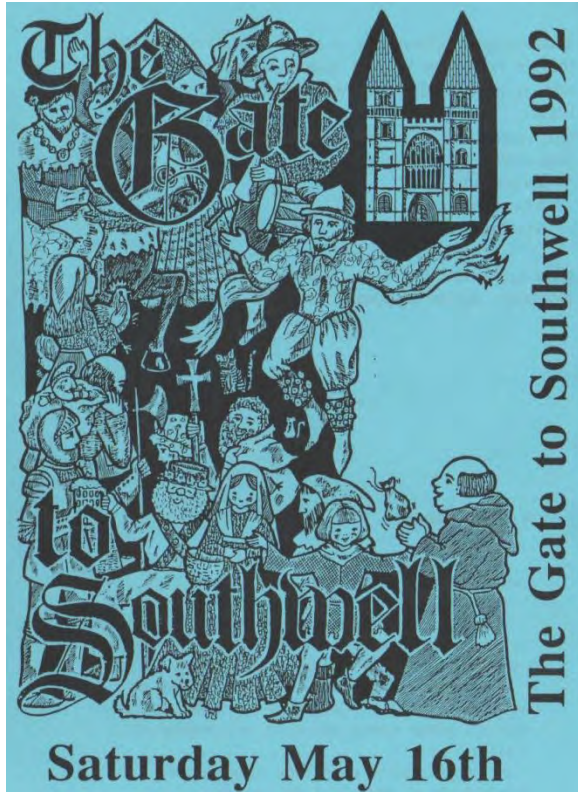
To the Aidleys, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig, Broadstone, Calverton, Chesterfield Garland, Maids of Clifton, Dolphin, Dukes Dandy Clog, Greenwood, Foresters, Knighton, Micklebarrow, Nottingham Pride, Portland Poklers, and Sergeant Musgraves Dance

GREETINGS, Bienvenue, Welcom, Willkommen, Bonjour, De Nada etc etc WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide journey, AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England, an essential Part of the culture of EUROPE WE WELCOME you to Sneinton and in accordance with the Treaty of

Rome WE GRANT YOU free passage without examining your passports WE THANK YOU for performing your famous English dances. ACCEPT our gift of ECU's toward your worthy charity WE HOPE that the weather will continue its Mediterranean azure hue. THAT your footwear will be of Germaine stoutness. THAT the Belgish beer will be brimming at Burton Joyce, the lager lithesome at Lowdham, the Chianti charismatic at Caythorpe, and the sherry soporific at Southwell. GO FORTH with our good wishes, with salutations to the Bishop AND WE look forward to the European Union and the institution of the GATE TO BRUSSELS

BON VOYAGE
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN
Gilbert Clarke
Iris Smith
Tom Huggon

Sneinton May 16th 1992



At the 1992 DMM AGM Squire John Sweeney said,

'The new format of the Gate worked extremely well – nice to see so many new sides there. Congratulations to Bob for creating a new tradition – I believe some of the old people in the villages we dance through can remember when we used to do it when they were kids! Thanks for all the hard work Bob – it's well worth it'.

Penny Smith from Dukes Dandy wrote after the 1992 Gate to say,

'Dear Bob Hine,

Just a quick note of thanks for invite 2 the Gate, from Duke's Dandy. We really enjoyed it – despite Mick [Nesbitt] of Black Pig trying to hijack our musician via a 6 mile hike! The last parade bit with all the teams was smashing! Right then, Penny Smith'.



Sergeant Musgrave's perform before the procession starts

At Sneinton Nottingham Pride do a static move while the others catch up



Dukes Dandy Clog taking their turn with the banner with Knighton behind them



Aidley's at the village hall Lowdham



Greenwood Clog at Thurgarton



Just out for a stroll



A sunny day at the Minster



Unusual view of the North Porch ceremony



A photo and write up made the South Notts Advertiser on May 22 on page 25. The Photo shows Calverton MM in Bleasby:



The caption to go with the photograph was:

'The colourful Gate to Southwell, a 12th Century tradition, was danced by a record number of people of Saturday.

The Gate to Southwell is a traditional parade dating back to 1109 when the decision was made to build Southwell Minster. It originally comprised representatives of all the parishes in Nottinghamshire carrying a parish contribution – known as the Southwell Pence – towards the building work in progress.

The procession was made about 500 times before dying out at the time of the reformation. It was revived in 1981 by a handful of Morris dancers, and they set out once again on Saturday morning from the Old Market Square in Nottingham.

The 150 dancers took in a 20-mile journey covering Sneinton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Goverton, Bleasby and Fiskerton before reaching the Minster just after 5pm.

After a mass dance in the Market Place, they took a rest from the heat with a well-earned tour of the town's hostelries'.

The 1992 programme informs that:

'Traditional processions create traditional thirsts: there's no better way of quenching your thirst than with a pint (or two or three) of traditional English bitter.

Our warm thanks for their support for The Gate to Southwell to, Batemans, Marston's, and Stones/Bass. Kind appreciation goes also to Dorothy and George at the Bramley Apple, Southwell for their hospitality'.



A rare photograph of Knighton Morris at their only Gate. Liz Pearce of New St George can be seen almost facing the camera.



Portland Poklers caught off guard. If you look carefully you can see a daughter of a Squire of the Morris Ring...clues – she's wearing sunglasses and she's not the shorter one!



Nottingham Pride air-brushed to look young and vital – can you spot the Witchman?



Maids of Clifton in their old kit – did you know one of them is married to a tegestologist?*



From Eric Foxley and his computer diary:

1992 16th May *Minster dance Valentine Fieldtown with Mike Garland (Ring Squire), Ian Campbell (friend of ours here for the weekend, Hammersmith Morris), one Forester, one Calverton, one Micklebarrow (but as usual, there was no sign of Micklebarrow all afternoon, they were busy drinking), and one Dolphin*.

**Tegestologist – a beermat collector



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1993
JOHN SWEENEY SAYS, 'ONE OF THE
GREAT MORRIS TRADITIONS'

May 22nd The 13th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Greenwood Clog, Sgt Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Dukes Dandy Clog, Maids of Clifton, Portland Poklers, Aidleys, Broadstone, Calverton, Micklebarrow, Oaks and Acorns, Shuttlers Clog, Chip off the Old, Nottingham Pride



The 1993 Gate badge design was done by Bob Hine using one of the images from the Betley Window: At the house of George Tollett at Betley in Staffordshire there is a small window made up of several panes of shaped glass. On 12 of the panes there are images representing the May-pole and 11 characters then found in a Morris dance. The actual date of the window is unknown but believed to be 17th or even 16th Century. The original window is in the Victoria and Albert Museum but there is a copy now at the house.

The Spring 1993 issue of Sneinton Magazine (No 46) page 9 had an advert for the Gate that invited local people to attend...

'THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL

Come and welcome

YE MORRIS DANCERS

IN SNEINTON

En route to the Minster

On their annual pilgrimage.

OUR VISITORS WILL ARRIVE AT

9.30 o'clock on ye morninge of

SATURDAY MAY 22nd

Outside SNEINTON HERMITAGE CENTRE

Ye said dancers will be greeted by quaintly garbed members of Sneinton Environmental Society who will, after being regaled by Musick and performance, escort Ye Merry Folk in ye direction of Southwell, yea, even unto ye Gates of Greenwode Junior School, situatede upon ye Boulevard. And will assuredly wish upon them God Spede.'

At Sneinton the annual proclamation was read out in the usual manner by its author Tom Huggon...

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Greenwood, Sergeant Musgraves Dance, Stone Monkey, Dolphin, Chip off the Old, Maids of Clifton, Shuttlers Clog, Aidleys, Broadstone, Calverton, Micklebarrow, Dukes Dandy Clog, Nottingham Pride, Oaks and Acorn Morris Dancers.

GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide procession AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England

WE WELCOME you to Sneinton and hereby grant you free passage through our ancient environs.

WE thank you for performing your delightful dances and support your brothers and sisters led by the Hastings Morris and Rochester Sweeps in their efforts to confound those scurvy politicians attempting to abolish May Day as a traditional English Festival.

ACCEPT our humble gift to your worthy charity

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY
TO the Hastings Royal Belfry, Greenwood, Sergeant Murgans Dance, Stone Yard, Duffin, Cup-off-the-Old, Mice of Clepton, Shatters Boys, Pipers, Broadstone, Bealston, Old Barrows, Duke's Jolly, Play, Nottingham Bride, Oaks and from Morris Dancers.
GREETINGS
WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide procession. AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England WE WELCOME you to Sneinton and hereby GRANT you free passage through our ancient environs.
WE thank you for performing your delightful dances and support your brothers and sisters led by the Hastings Morris and Rochester Sweeps in their efforts to confound those scurvy politicians attempting to abolish May Day as a traditional English Festival.
ACCEPT our humble gift to your worthy charity
GO FORTH with our good wishes MAY the weather be good and your footwear stout
THE BEER FORECAST is as follows. ATTENTION all quaffing, especially in Ale Area Southwell. General synopsis: Light and frothy. Individual supply stations: Cross Keys Burton Joyce: Calm: 4 pints: Visibility: Very Good Old Ship Lowdham: Slight turbulence: 3 pints: Visibility: Good Black Horse Caythorpe: Breezy: 2 Pints; Visibility: Fair: Gravel Pits Old Elm Hoveringham: 2 pints: Strong wind: Visibility: Poor Bromley Arms Fiskerton: 4 pints: changeable, gale force wind: Visibility: very poor & patchy Bramley Apple: 10 pints: Stormy and squally: Visibility: Nil
SEND our good salutations to the worshipful BISHOP.
By our hand
22nd May 1993
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN
SNEINTON.

GO FORTH with our good wishes MAY the weather be good and your footwear stout. THE BEER FORECAST is as follows.

ATTENTION all quaffing, especially in Ale Area Southwell. General synopsis: Light and frothy.

Individual supply stations:

Cross Keys Burton Joyce:

Calm: 4 pints: Visibility: Very

Good Old Ship Lowdham:

Slight turbulence: 3 pints:

Visibility: Good

Black Horse Caythorpe:

Breezy: 2 Pints; Visibility: Fair:

Gravel Pits

Old Elm Hoveringham: 2 pints:

Strong winds: visibility: poor

Bromley Arms Fiskerton: 4

pints: changeable, gale force wind: Visibility very poor & patchy Bramley Apple: 10 pints:

Stormy and squally: Visibility: Nil. SEND our salutations to the worshipful BISHOP

By our hand

22nd May 1993

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Sneinton

The Summer 1993 Sneinton Magazine carried a short piece about the Gate:



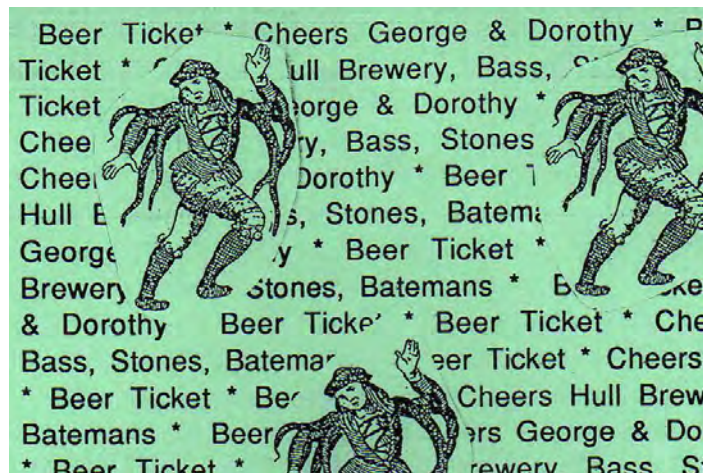
Penny Smith of Dukes Dandy Clog recalls *[In 1993] our musician was taken on a "short cut" between two venues by Mick [Nesbitt] can't remember team [Ladybay Revellers] and they disappeared for 3 hrs, totally lost and unable to hitch a lift possibly on account of Mick's blacked up face, top hat and feathers*. [Might have fared better if he had worn his dress!]

Penny Smith also sent a photograph of Mick to help identify him, *'Here he is in Scarborough in 2002'*: [The evidence is overwhelming – it was 'im]

Moira Ruff of Dukes Dandy says – *'Oh- and we remembered last night that the day we walked through the field of rape, two of our team were carrying the banner at that time (so I do believe the short cut was inspired by one of the lead Dolphin men).'*

Squire John Sweeney mentioned the Gate at the 1992 DMM AGM, 'Thanks again to Bob for another excellent Gate; one of the great Morris traditions.'

Bob Hine had a green theme in 1993 which was carried through into the programme cover and the beer ticket:



The Betley Window which provided imagery for several 'Gate' badges



1993 was another year when no one seems to have taken a camera. There are no photographs from this year that have surfaced so far, except the image in the Sneinton Magazine.

Random memory: From Penny Smith; *One of our team (Dukes Dandy) was reminding me the other day about us really looking forward to a drink and loos at the Red Lion [actually it must be the Elm Tree, never danced at the Red Lion which is at Thurgarton] at Hoveringham, then arriving and marching up to the front door, commenting that the garden looked a bit scruffy. Suddenly realizing on closer inspection that the people lounging in the back garden were householders not punters, we beat a hasty retreat*’.

[This is the second reference to Hoveringham I’ve had. I was told of arriving (not sure if on foot or by bus) and finding the place shut down and was either an old folks home or similar or was going to be when work finished. Apparently it required half an hour of hanging around before things were sorted out! The date will almost certainly be 1993].

Random memory: From Moira Ruff *‘I’m with Duke’s Dandy [Gate 1992, 93 and 96] and one of my abiding memories is on one of the last years when we walked sections of the route (sorry don’t know which year), wandering along country lanes and quiet villages, our only audience being surprised horses - it was nicely hot and sunny and at one point we abandoned parade dances for mass training of all participants by a Cotswold team in a processional Morris dance - Lichfield, I think - and some of the team musicians’ joined together and abandoned traditional tunes for Beatles and other non-traditional songs and music. No one to notice but us and the birds - but it was great fun. At one point we cut off a corner by the whole procession passing along a narrow footpath through a field of rape in full golden bloom (so probably May?) - we were covered in pollen as we emerged back on the road*’.



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

1994
ARISE 'SIR ROBERT,
ALE QUAFFER OF SNEINTON'

June 11th The 14th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Chesterfield Garland, Nottingham Pride, Oaks and Acorns, Sgt Musgrave's Dance, Calverton, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, Portland Poklers, Aidley's, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Ladybay Revellers, Stone Monkey Rapper, Broadstone rep

The chosen charity was: Smile Don't Stare

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and his web site point to his inspiration as,



'1994. One of an annual series, for the Dolphin Morris Men Organized 'Gate to Southwell'.

This is a twenty mile charity procession/pub crawl from Nottingham to the head of the diocese at Southwell Minster which takes place every summer in June. The procession originates with the founding of the minster and this annual event started over 500 years ago.

This badge depicts the handing over of the 'Southwell Pence' which was a payment made from each of the Nottinghamshire parishes to pay for the minster's upkeep and which continues symbolically to this day.'

Left: The 1994 badge with the hobby-horse character from the Betley Window

Right: A design that was rejected along the way

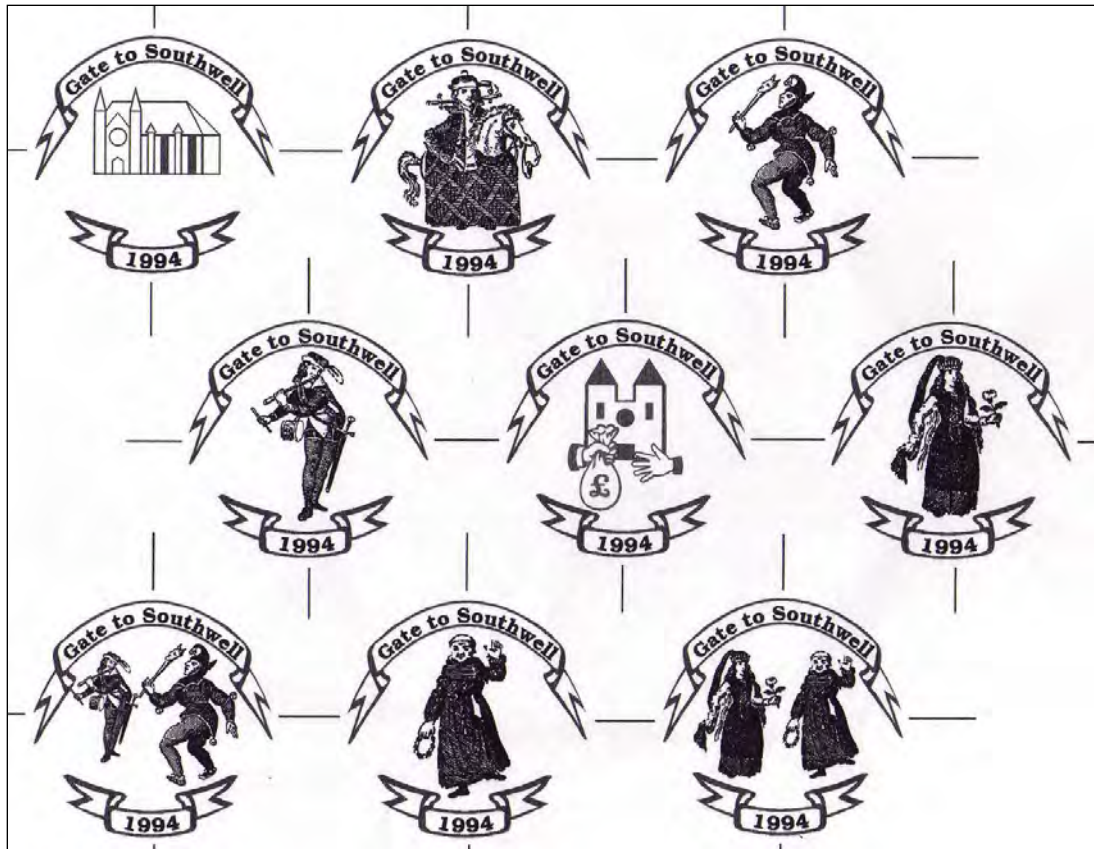
Chris went on to design, and make, all the subsequent Gate badges. Bob Hine had purchased a badge making machine which he gave to Chris Deuchar in return for which Chris did the designs and made the badges. In the earlier years the badge making was a team effort carried out at the pub after practice but later Chris took over the whole operation, the Gate paying for the badge blanks and Chris giving them to Bob when made. Chris seems to enjoy it and Bob enjoyed not having to do it.



Chris Deuchar says,

'I got into it because I wanted to make some badges for our floating shop at the time. So I offered to make the Gate badges as well and did them half price as a sort of semi-donation to the Gate fundraising. Inspiration initially came from previous designs (sometimes it still does!) but then someone (Mike Wilkinson?) pointed me at the Betley Window which was the basis of several designs.' [See 1993 Chapter 14 for image]

In 1994 Chris tried several of the Betley Window images before deciding upon the hobby-horse, as his proof sheet of ideas that follows, shows:



Apparently an advert for the Gate to Southwell went into the Burton Joyce village diary and the June Parish magazine but copies have not been kept.

The Burton Joyce & Bulcote Local History Society had, until 1993, provided refreshments for the procession but in 1994 they wrote to Bob Hine saying, *'The Cross Keys now serve morning coffee, so it is not appropriate for the Local History Society to serve refreshments in their car park! However we are happy to distribute posters as usual'*.



At the start of the Gate all are hanging on every word of Bob Hine and the Lord Mayor before taking to the road



Representatives from Greenwood Clog, Foresters, Micklebarrow, Broadstone, Portland Poklers, Nottingham Pride and Dolphin in the Old Market Square



Maids of Clifton warm-up with a dance for anyone who wants to watch, and wearing their new kit – mob cap gone and red socks.

This following write-up went in the Evening post on June 11th 1994 (but with no photograph):
'A Notts custom which dates back at least 900 years was taking place today.

The Gate to Southwell marks the annual tradition, kept up for more than five centuries, involving the Mayor and Corporations of Nottingham riding to Southwell in their best robes to take the town's annual contribution to the upkeep of the Minster. In old currency this was 13 shillings and four pence. Each parish in the county made a small payment known as the Southwell Pence. The money was received at the North Porch of the Minster by the Chapter Clerk.

Revived

The procession was revived in 1981 and has been recreated each year since by local Morris Dancers, who have been linked with the procession since at least 1530.

Old records for that year show that the borough Council paid for the bells and coats of "ye Morris dancers" taking part in the Gate to Southwell and for the ale that they drank "at all times". The procession gets its name from the old Scandinavian word gata meaning street or way.

The Morris dance teams taking part in today's event come from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Lord Mayor of Nottingham Coun. Vernon Gapper was starting the procession at 9am from the Old Market Square.

They were making their way to Southwell via Sneinton Hermitage Square, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton and were due to arrive at the Minster at 5.15pm.'



The procession leaving the Old Market Square

Portland Poklers from the University dance in the procession, followed by the Maids of Clifton, along Wheeler Gate



The procession



Stone Monkey-business at Southwell

At Sneinton Hermitage the proclamation was as usual written and read by Tom Huggon;

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Aidleys, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Calverton, Chesterfield Garland, Dolphin, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Ladybay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, Nottingham Pride, Oaks and Acorns, Portland Poklers, Sergeant Musgraves Dance, and Stone Monkey Rapper, Teams.

GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here (somewhat belatedly) for its Whitsuntide Procession and is desirous of passing through out district.

AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England

WE WELCOME you all and GRANT free passage through Sneinton

AND WE thank you for performing your delightful dances

ACCEPT our contribution to your charities which we do not consider unworthy of their status or unnecessary despite Royal observations to the contrary

GO FORTH with our good wishes

MAY the ale be good and frothing wheresoever ye are thirsty

SEND our salutations to the gracious BISHOP.

TODAY is the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen whom it has pleased to confer upon your distinguished leader the honour of Companionship of the Noble Order of Sneinton Ale Quaffers. In accordance with the authority vested in us we now dub him SIR

ROBERT ALEQUAFFER

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given at Sneinton the eleventh day of June 1994

After the reading of the proclamation Tom Huggon 'knighted' Bob Hine as

'Sir Robert, Ale Quaffer of Sneinton'.

Tom produced a sword from his clothing and 'dubbed' him in the time honoured fashion.
[Information from video supplied by Maids of Clifton]

The 1994 proclamation

SMYTHON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Dudley, Hales Royal Chalfont, Berkton, Shutefield Parkland, Delfhi, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Ladybay Revellers, Friends of Clifton, Thebblebarrow, Nottingham Pride, Cakes and Acorns, Northend Poppers, Sergeant Magnus Deuce and Stone Monkey Kaffee Texas.

GREENINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here (somewhat belatedly) for its Whitsuntide Procession and is desirous of passing through our district.

AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England

WE WELCOME you all and **GRANT** free passage through Smeaton.

AND WE thank you for performing your delightful dances

ACCEPT our contributions to your charities which we do not consider unworthy of their status or unnecessary despite Royal observations to the contrary

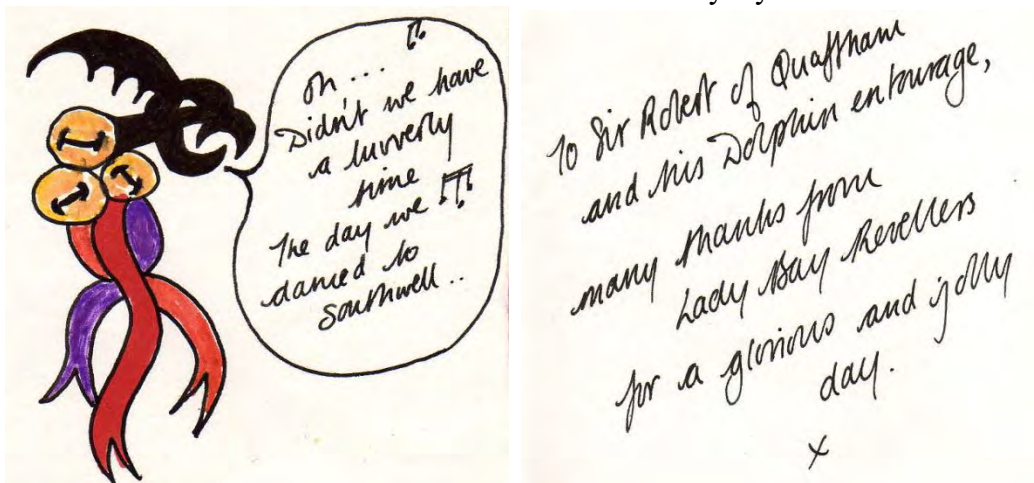
GO FORTH with our good wishes **MAY** the ale be good and **Strong** whosoever ye are **thirsty SEND** our salutations to the gracious **BISHOP**.

TODAY is the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen whom it has pleased to confer upon your distinguished leader the honour of Companionship of the Noble Order of Smeaton Ale Quaffers. In accordance with the authority vested in us we now dub him **SIR ROBERT ALEQUAFFER**.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given at Smeaton the eleventh day of June 1994.

Below: Card received from Ladybay Revellers



The Revellers card is the work of Micheline Harris, Squire of LBR

Sergeant Musgrave's line up for the photograph



Anstey Royal Chalfont leaving Caythorpe



Ladybay Revellers leave the Black Horse following Anstey RC



Nottingham Pride with Steve Jones who sadly, died suddenly the same year



In Southwell Market Place Oaks and Acorns perform a garland dance while Nottingham Pride dance Great Budworth in the background



Aidley's dancing in Southwell



Bob Hine recalls, 'Apart from the inclement May weather, we found it inconvenient to have a date which changed every year in an apparently random way. Accordingly, we decided to fix the date for the June weekend after Thaxted [Thaxted Morris Men from Essex host a Morris Ring weekend of dance called a Ring Meeting every year at the beginning of June] - when we hoped the weather, if not dry, would be mild. In general, the date wouldn't be too far away from the

actual Whitsun. After all, as I often reminded the Mayor, the records do say that the Mayor might postpone the procession because of *'intemperance of the weder or foulness of the way'*.

No problems with the weather in 1994



The fields of Rape were no bar to the Gate



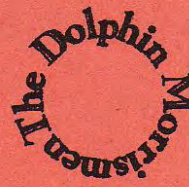


The procession on Church Street, Southwell, almost at the Minster

Pete Bradley and Keith Baker watch the ceremony at the North Porch from afar

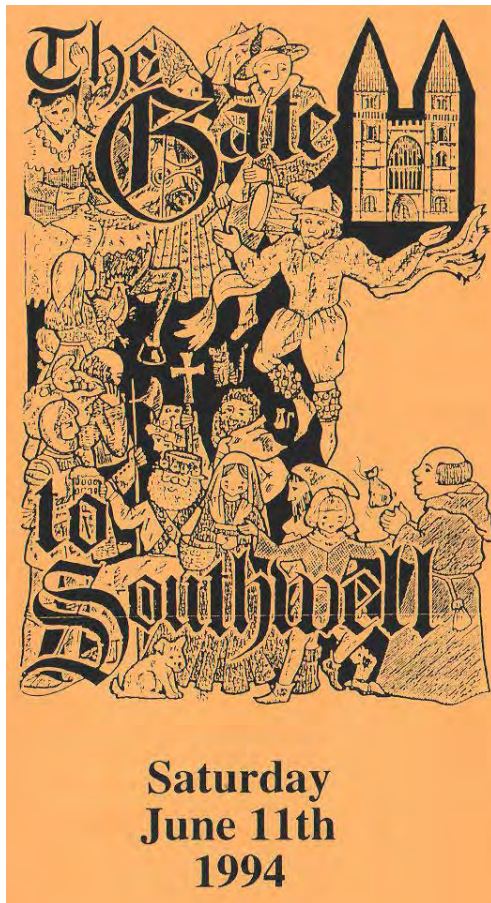


The Gate to Southwell Ceilidh



Sat. 8th October
West Park Pavilion, W. Bridgford
8.00pm. £3.50

October 8th 1994: Bob Hine organised The Gate to Southwell Ceilidh at West Park Pavilion, West Bridgford. When asked Bob what had prompted him to organise the ceilidh he wrote, *'Mainly fund-raising I think. Committing to buses etc involved a certain risk that we could lose a lot of money if people dropped out at the last minute. So if we could raise enough money to give us a float this would reduce the financial risk to Dolphin. At that time Dolphin had run a number of successful ceilidhs, hadn't we? Also the hope was that the sides that regularly took part in the Gate would be willing to support it, which I think some did. Beyond that it was a further way of bringing local sides together - something which we now take much more for granted'*.



1994 saw the start of the popular three fold pamphlet for the Gate programme. There would be occasional 'throw backs' to the single fold A4 sheet but three-fold was the way forward. This modern dynamic approach to the programme production is probably what helped the Gate to continue past its twenties? (It may of course be nothing whatsoever to do with the programme at all)

Nothing is known about the original Gate programmes and it may be that in the 12th Century they didn't use them.



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

**1995
MICHAEL CUPITT
AND STEVE JONES
REMEMBERED**

June 10th The 15th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Broadstone, Calverton, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Micklebarrow, Aidley's, Ladybay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Mortimer's Morris, Nottingham Pride, Black Pig, Stone Monkey, Oaks & Acorns.

The chosen charity was; Benefit for the family of the late Michael Cupitt of Calverton Morrismen.

Nottingham Pride was chosen to perform in the Minster in Memory of Steve Jones who died the previous year at an instructional held on 12th November 1994 at Basford Flats community Centre. Steve was 41 years old when he died.



Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says, '1995. Morris dancers were known to have entertained the walkers as early as 1530 and are depicted in this badge. The characters are 'stolen' from the famous 'Betley Window'. [Maid Marian and the Jester figures]

Below: As always Chris Deuchar experiments with Various ideas before one comes to the fore; and has kept a few of the discarded ones seen here –



There was a write-up without photo in the Evening Post on Monday 12th June, which read, *'It was one of those rare moments – the Lord Mayor of Nottingham caught short! And what a time for it to happen...just before the start off one of the county's oldest traditions. Coun Sylvia Parsons couldn't believe it herself. But there it was. She was precisely one shilling and sixpence three-farthings short. She had been fobbed off by more than a bob.'*

She should have had 13 shillings and four pence to pay the City's dues to Southwell Minster – a tradition that stretches back hundreds of years. But the city's purse was...er light. And the city treasurer was nowhere to be seen.

It happened as more than 100 Morris dancers and musicians prepared to set off on the historical Gate to Southwell procession.

Parade leader Bob Hine said, "I am anxious the Bishop does not think we have spent the difference on drink on the way".

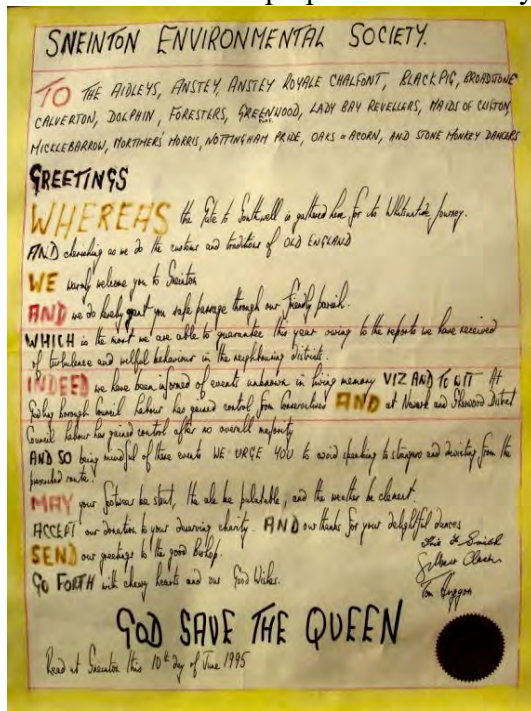
To cries from the dancers that she would have to impose a poll tax to raise the shortfall, the Lord Mayor said she would make it up herself. "I am personally going to take it to the Bishop next month".

It was an eventful start to an historic day.... It finally arrived at the Minster yesterday, heavy of limb – but light of pocket.'



The cover of the three-fold Gate programme

The Sneinton scroll prepared and read by Tom Huggon read as follows...



SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL
SOCIETY
TO THE AIDLEYS, ANSTEY,
ANSTEY ROYALE CHALFONT,
BLACK PIG, BROADSTONE,
CALVERTON, DOLPHIN,
FORESTERS, GREENWOOD
CLOG, LADY BAY REVELLERS,
MAIDS OF CLIFTON,
MICKLEBARROW, MORTIMER'S
MORRIS, NOTTINGHAM PRIDE
OAKS AND ACORNS, AND STONE
MONKEY DANCERS

GREETINGS

WHEREAS THE Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide journey
AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND WE warmly
welcome you to Sneinton AND we do hereby grant you safe passage through our friendly
parish WHICH is the most we are able to guarantee this year owing to the reports we have
received of turbulence and wilful behaviour in the neighbouring districts. INDEED we have
been informed of events unknown in living memory VIZ AND TO WIT At Gedling
Borough Council Labour has gained control from Conservatives AND at Newark and
Sherwood District Council Labour has gained control after no overall majority. AND
SO, being mindful of the events, WE URGE YOU to avoid speaking to strangers, and
deviating from the prescribed route. MAY your footwear be stout, the ale be palatable, and
the weather be clement. ACCEPT our donation to your deserving charity AND our
thanks for your delightful dances

SEND our greetings to the good Bishop

Iris Smith

GO FORTH with cheery hearts and our good wishes

Gilbert Clarke

Tom Huggon

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Read at Sneinton this 10th day of June 1995

The few 1995 Gate photographs that have been found



Marian and Martin Smalley lead Nottingham Pride to the Minster





Steve Jones Dad and sister at the Minster with Chris Plant and Mick Nesbitt

Nottingham Pride and their show dance 'Great Budworth' in memory of Steve



Two photographs from (and of) the Maids of Clifton





CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

1996 MEDIEVAL RENAISSANCE DELAYS GATE ARRIVING AT SNEINTON

June 8th

The 16th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Broadstone, Micklebarrow, Dukes Dandy, Oaks & Acorns, Aidley's, Belvoir, Clever Clogs, Ladybay Revellers, Greenwood Clog, Foresters, Calverton, Maids of Clifton, Mortimer's Morris, Nottingham Pride, Bakanalia, Black Pig, Stone Monkey.

The chosen charity was; Smile Don't Stare



Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says, '1996. Another badge of entertainment en route - and more Betley Window characters with the Minster in the background. It isn't clear in this image but the black border contains a dotted white line to symbolise the roadway there.'

Below: The 'scrap-pile' of 1996 Gate badge designs but showing the dotted white line that was not obvious on the winning completed badge



The 1996 Gate coincided with the Mediaeval Renaissance organised by the City Council and also the start of Euro 96. It was decided to do an extended dance display in the centre of Nottingham as part of the Medieval Renaissance. This required a later start time and Bob Hine in a letter to Tom Huggon said,

'We will leave the Broadmarsh area at about 10.15am and will aim to be at Hermitage Square for 10.40am'.

The advance notification sent out by Bob to elicit details of attending sides informed them (amongst other information):

'The 1996 programme

The 1996 Gate to Southwell will start with massed dancing in the Old Market Square at 9.20 am. The Lord Mayor will set the procession on its way at 9.30 am when he hands over the City's annual contribution to the minster at Southwell, fixed by ancient custom at 13s 4d. From the Old Market Square we will process first to the Broadmarsh pedestrian area for informal dancing as part of the 'Medieval Renaissance'. Reassemble outside Marks and Spencer's at 10.15 for the procession to Sneinton Hermitage where Tom Huggon and the Environmental Society will make an important announcement, hopefully allowing the procession to carry on towards Southwell! There will be further dancing spots in the morning at Burton Joyce (at the Cross Keys) and Lowdham (at the Ship). The lunch stop will be as usual at Lowdham. In the afternoon, the procession will travel in relays from Lowdham (leaving at 1.15pm) through the attractive Trent-side villages of Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton and Bleasby, with dancing spots at the pubs on the route. The teams will be divided into three groups, with each leg covering about half a mile and the Gate will reach the Wagon and Horses at Bleasby at 4.15. We will then drive to Southwell.'

'The final part of the programme takes place in Southwell at 5 p.m. where the dance sides will assemble for the main procession from Easthorpe up Church Street to the Minster. At the North Porch of the Minster, the Chapter Clerk following long established practice will receive the Southwell Pence. Representatives of the sides taking part in the Gate will hand over the contributions to the Southwell Pence from various parts of the county. After a brief commemorative service in the Minster, the teams will give a short display in the Market Place before adjourning to the Bramley Apple for refreshment.'

The changes meant that the Lord Mayor would start the procession at 9.30am.

The advertising regarding the Medieval Renaissance informs would-be attendees;

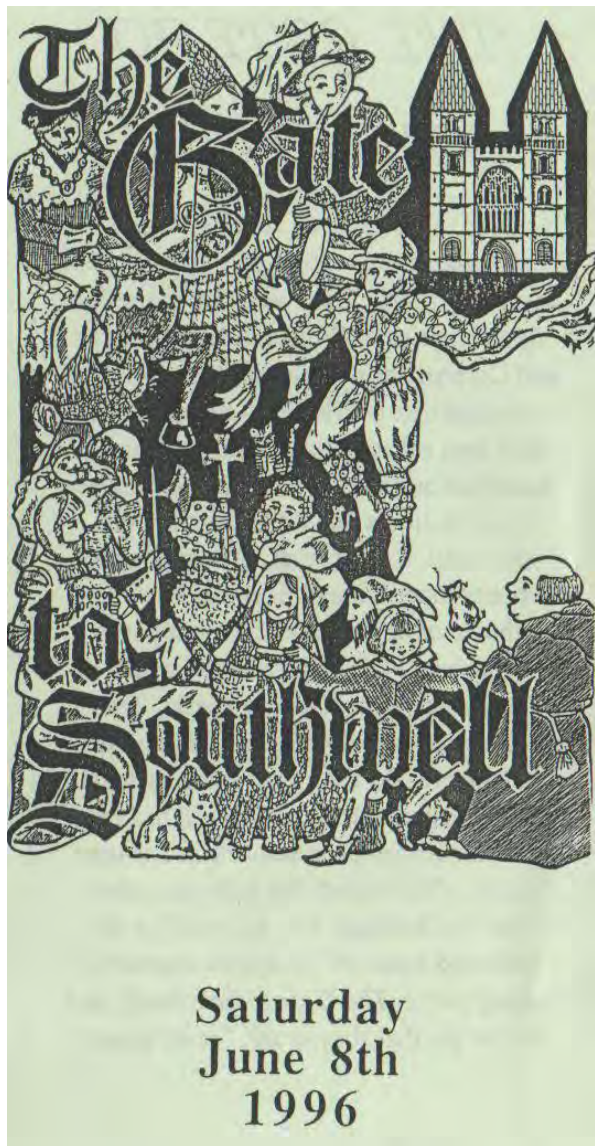
The Medieval Renaissance is promoted by the city of Nottingham and takes place over a weekend at the beginning of June at Nottingham Castle and in the nearby Market Square. A small medieval village (it gets bigger each year), is built in the grounds of the Castle and inhabited by people in role displaying the trades of medieval times. Fighting armies set up camp and live there for the weekend, coming out to drill, cook meals, fight opposing armies and other such medieval activities. This has been taking place since 1993 and develops each year'.



Early arrivals at the Old Market Square – Clever Clogs sword dancing

Below: In the next two photographs the Dolphin men show how a coordinated approach to kit leads to a corporate identity which in turn leads to an instantly recognisable product brand. There are (apparently) sides that just turn up in what they like!





The 1996 Gate programme

At Sneinton Hermitage Tom Huggon read his proclamation as always...

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Aidley's, Black Pig, Black Boar, Belvoir Morris, Broadstone, Calverton, Clever Clogs, Dukes Dandy, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, Mortimer's Morris, Nottingham Pride, and Dukes Dandy Dancing teams.

GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide journey AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England

WE warmly welcome you to Sneinton AND we do hereby grant you safe passage through our friendly parish

PROVIDED always that not one of you is wilfully harbouring or concealing any beef

products imported from abroad viz and to wit German sausage, Italian salami, Spanish Bulls semen, French tripe, Flemish meat balls, etc etc all of which have been banned in Sneinton in the interest of public health MAY your footwear be stout AND the weather clement AND the ale tasty on your journey and at the Bramley Apple.

ACCEPT our donation to your worthy charity AND our thanks for delightful dances SEND our greetings to the good Bishop.

GO FORTH with cheery hearts and our GOOD WISHES

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Read at Sneinton this 8th day of June 1996

More of the crowd at Sneinton – but who smudged Keith Baker?



Stone Monkey arriving at Sneinton with Mortimer's bringing up the rear



Sweetie Rapper give Stone Monkey a run for their money at Burton Joyce



Steve Earwicker of Foresters wrote to Bob saying, *'We had a great time on Saturday and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves! Several people commented on what a good atmosphere there was, I'm glad you got a chance to dance this year'.*



Aidley's at the Cross Keys



Maids of Clifton at the Cross Keys



The procession arriving at Lowdham



Ladybay Revellers arrive at the Ship Lowdham, for lunch.



Black Pig at Lowdham village hall



Police are suspected of planting officers in Gate procession but nothing was confirmed



Black Pig rope in some idle bystanders



Nottingham Pride processing in 1996



Gyppeswyck Garland of Ipswich



Bakanalia at Southwell Market Place



Christine of Bakanalia wrote to Bob saying, *'We had a great day – many thanks for squeezing us in at the last minute – it was a nice touch to include us in the “handing over” ceremony – we felt welcomed'*.

The procession arriving at the Minster



Broadstone and Foresters reach the gate



Recollections from Paul Blatherwick of Broadstone:

'I read your plea and this is my recollection of my first Gate in 1996. I hope no one is offended by this, especially about the organisation, because Bob and Chris have always done a marvellous job of organising the route and the dance spots. It's just that certain sides',

Broadstone being one and Stone Monkey being another specialised in never sticking to it!
Cheers, Paul Blatherwick

'It was 1996 and my first summer of Dancing out with Broadstone Morris Men of Retford. I had been taught 6 dances. It was with some trepidation I set out with them on that year's Gate as I had been regaled with plenty of stories of their antics on previous Gates. They had a fearsome reputation as serious drinkers (coming mainly from themselves it has to be said). Because a few of them belonged to CAMRA as well, I tended to call them CAMRA's Para-military wing. CAMRA being the acceptable public face of beer drinking and Broadstone...More tellingly a couple of the side who steadfastly had nothing to do with their drinking binges had opted to go to an event and teach Morris dancing to children all day instead!!!

Anyway another of the side managed to con his unsuspecting wife into driving a mini bus full of us from Retford to Nottingham and from Nottingham to Southwell and back to Retford again.

I remember it being a gloriously sunny day. And we danced outside of Marks and Spencer's in Nottingham before we processed all the way to Sneinton to the Environmental hall for much needed refreshment and my first encounter with Tom [Huggon] and his topical speeches.

Then it was on the mini bus to Burton Joyce where the drinking got serious. I remembered saying to myself "Right Paul, there's no way you'll keep up with these lads' so you just have to take it steady". That was in regard to the drinking, not the dancing. I don't think my full repertoire of six dances was fully utilised.

I remember getting the sticks out of the bus and urging the others to dance the Upton-Upon-Seven Stick Dance but I don't remember putting them back?

I remember my then pregnant wife Jane coming out in the car with our two small older children in the mid afternoon to see what was happening. Armed with a programme she had obtained from somewhere saying...

"No one one's sticking to this Paul, there's no one dancing where they should be dancing, there are people dancing where they shouldn't be dancing. It's mayhem, I'm going home."

Anyway a few hours later at about 8:00pm I stood in our living room swaying ever so slightly.

My long suffering wife asked "Paul, how much have you had to drink?" .

"Oh just Half" I replied

"Just half?"

"Yes, just half in every pub".

"How many pubs?"

"I don't know I lost count after ten!!"

The next day was spent phoning some of the pubs we visited (and some we hadn't) trying to locate the sticks. Then I had to drive out and collect them'.

A photo and write up appeared in the Newark Advertiser on June 14th. The photo showed Colin Silver and Ian Thompson of Micklebarrow dancing outside the Minster:

"More than 150 Morris men danced in Southwell on Saturday as part of an annual ceremony that dates back more than 800 years.

The dancers from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire, paraded through town streets to the north porch of the Minster during the Gate to Southwell.



The Southwell based Micklebarrow Morris Men were among the groups that left the Old Market Square in Nottingham at about 9 am to dance their way to Southwell for an evening commemorative service. Mr Colin Silver and Mr Ian Thomson of the Micklebarrow Group are pictured dancing outside the Minster.

Ceremony

Stops along the 20-mile route included the Cross Keys at Burton Joyce, the Old Ship at Lowdham, the coach and horses at Thurgarton and the Waggon and Horses at Bleasby.

The ceremony dates back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York wrote to parishes asking for contributions towards a new mother church in Southwell.

Each year at Whitsuntide for more than five centuries the Mayor of Nottingham, dressed in his best robes, rode to Southwell to join representatives of local parishes in presenting contributions at the north porch of the Minster.

Morris men have been linked to the procession, revived in 1981, since 1530.

Organiser Mr Bob Hine told the advertiser, 'It is always a lively occasion that attracts a great deal of attention along the way'.

Records from 1530 show that the Borough Council paid for the bells and coats of Morris dancers taking part and for the ale they drank during the day'.

Random memory from Moira Ruff of Dukes Dandy – *'Penny Smith has checked her old calendars and has only found the 3 years [when we danced at the Gate; 1992, '93, and '96] - we all felt we had done more, but perhaps not? I know I danced the World Cup year with one of our members, Barbara Owers, as Duke's Dandy, and we didn't have a musician so Malcolm from Rattlejag played for us, but I also danced with Rattlejag on the same day. We had to amuse ourselves in the sunshine outside the pub for the duration of the final match (England and someone else - I can't quite remember who!! [Switzerland at Euro 96 score 1:1]), but kicking our heels is something we do quite well!'* (groan!)



CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

**1997
THE YEAR OF THE
PUNCTURED MONKEY**

June 7th

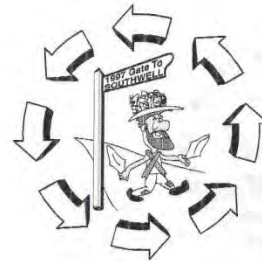
The 17th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Aidley's, Green Velvet Outlaws, Ladybay Revellers, Nottingham Pride, Black Pig, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, Broadstone (rep), Calverton (rep), Anstey Royal Chalfont, Oaks & Acorns, Stone Monkey Rapper, Sweetie Rapper

Anstey Royale Chalfont danced on the west walk of the Minster during the service

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says, '1997. A simple, but effective, design - the date is on the sign's post and some of the pubs visited en route are list around the border'.

Below: The badge, the unmade design and two discarded designs.



A letter from the Reverend Canon Ian Collins to Bob stated,

'We have a very complicated day here in the minster on June 7th. It is the Friends of Southwell 5th Anniversary day with a Sung Eucharist in the morning and a festal Evensong with sermon at 5.45pm. Because of this special Evensong, the Rector Choir needs to practice the choir in the Minster at 5pm. There is also a group of 50 people visiting the minster at 4.15pm. Consequently I have been asked if for once the Gate might agree to dance and have their short service outside the Minster this year. We thought that the dancing could be on the west-walk, outside the west door. I am sorry about this but it would seem the only possible solution. Let us hope for fine weather!'

A letter from Charles Chambers dated 3rd June 1997 appears to state that no members of Broadstone will be attending the Gate – [they had fielded men in all years except 1981]. He says, *'It's particularly galling because any other Saturday would have been alright!*



Bob Hine offers Coun. Roy Greensmith a Werther's Original, and briefs him on what to say and do when he addresses the Procession and questions him on the location of his horse for the journey? "Glad you asked", said Roy and added, "I'll get back to you on that one".



This press cutting from the Evening Post was given to me with a 1995 date of issue! But as we all know Coun. Roy Greensmith only set the Gate procession off in 1997... and again in 2001



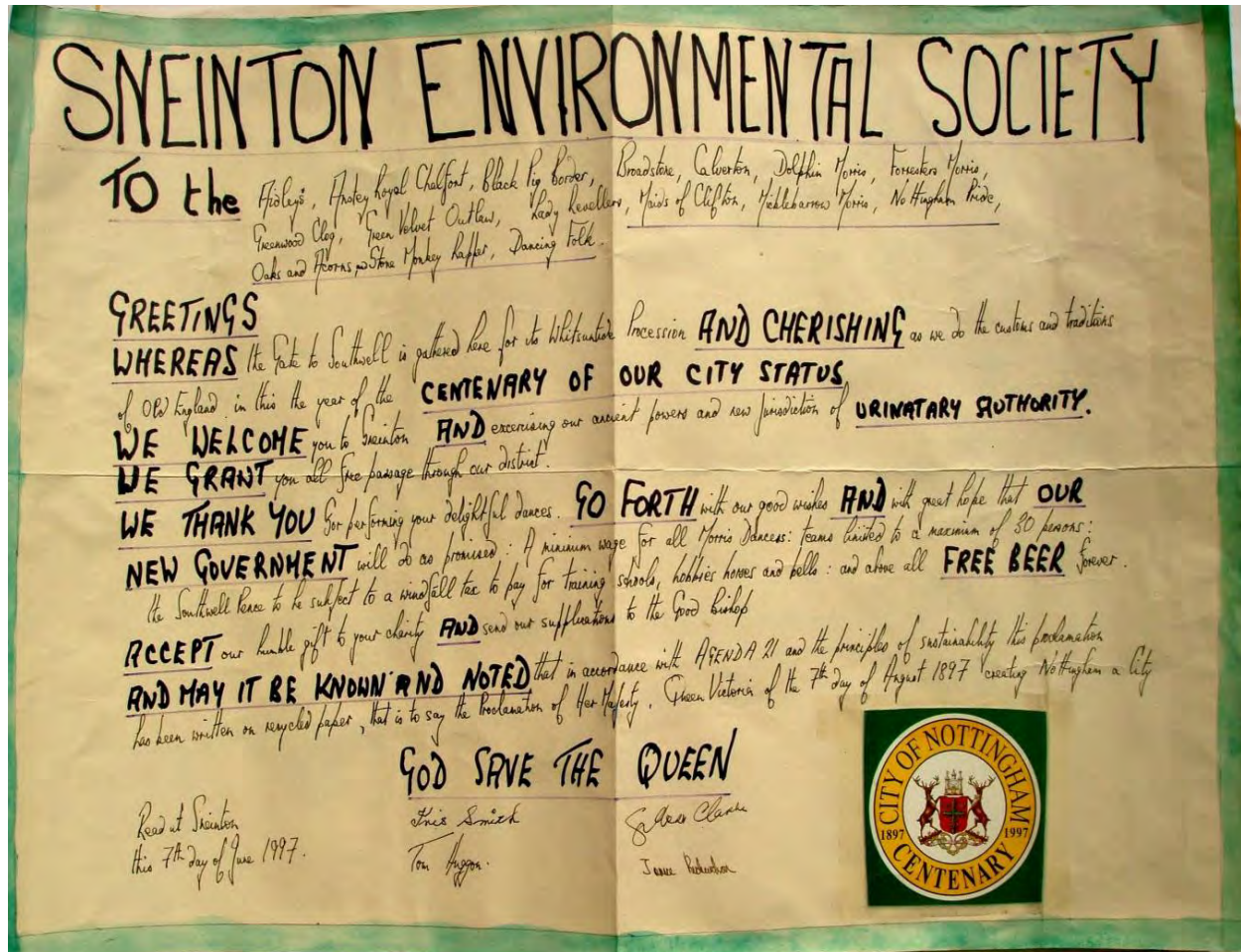
OFF WE GO: Steve Earwicker on the melodian and Paul Mellors of the Foresters morris men look the part for the Gate to Southwell procession on Saturday. The event is a Notts custom and takes place every year. *POSTPHOTO 974260/8*. Inset: Lord Mayor Coun Roy Greensmith joins Hannah Burnett, nine, of the Maid of Clifton ladies' clog team, in a jig *POSTPHOTO 974260/14*



Lois McGill of Clever Clogs wrote to inform that the side would not be able to attend because the weekend was proving very difficult, but she did add:

'I hope you have good weather and a very successful day – we enjoyed the event very much last year – though Sean swears he still has the blisters – and were very impressed with the ceremony at Southwell. Good luck on the day and remember us again next year'.

At Sneinton Tom Huggon read his now traditional and keenly anticipated proclamation. Unusually in 1997 Tom used a 'landscape' aspect rather than the predictable 'portrait' of previous years!



SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Aidley's, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig Border, Broadstone, Calverton, Dolphin Morris, Foresters Morris, Greenwood Clog, Green Velvet Outlaws, Ladybay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow Morris, Nottingham Pride, Oaks and Acorns, and Stone Monkey Rapper, dancing folk.

GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is gathered here for its Whitsuntide procession
AND CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of Old England in this the
year of the CENTENARY OF OUR CITY STATUS

WE WELCOME you to Sneinton AND exercising our ancient powers and new
jurisdiction of URINATORY AUTHORITY

WE GRANT you all free passage through our district WE THANK YOU for
performing your delightful dances

GO FORTH with our good wishes AND with great hope that OUR NEW
GOVERNMENT will do as promised: A minimum wage for all Morris Dancers: teams
limited to a maximum of 30 persons: the Southwell pence to be subject to a windfall tax to
pay for training schools, hobbies, horses and bells: and above all

FREE BEER forever. ACCEPT our humble gift to your charity AND send our



supplications to the Good Bishop
AND MAY IT BE KNOWN
AND NOTED that in accordance
with AGENDA 21 and the
principles of sustainability, this
proclamation has been written on
recycled paper, that is to say the
Proclamation of Her Majesty, Queen
Victoria of the 7th day of August
1897 creating Nottingham a City
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Read at Sneinton

Iris Smith Gilbert Clarke

This 7th day of June 1997

Tom Huggon Joyce Richardson

Stone Monkey dance at Sneinton



Above: Hanging on Tom's every word are representatives from; Nottingham Pride, Micklebarrow, Revellers, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Stone Monkey, Black Pig, Aidley's, Maids, Green Velvet Outlaws, and Dolphin

Linda Hewing (of Aidley's, Green Velvet Outlaws, Mortimer's and Whip the Cat Rapper) recalls:

'The other very memorable Gate for me was in the mid-'90's when Black Pig and Stone Monkey waged a bit of a war and one of the teams stole the other's mascot and held it to ransom and things got more 'heated' over the day, until it culminated in a massive rugby-style scrum to retrieve it... Anyone else remember it differently? Was it actually a fight?'

Dave Mortin of Stone Monkey recalls of the 'incident',

'Now then. The mascot was an inflatable monkey which we attached to the front of the builder's van we used to ride around in on the gait. It was nicked by said 'Pigs' after a day of attacking each other with water pistols. At one point a Pig jumped into our van just as the driver (who didn't see him) accelerated off. A look of pure panic crossed his features and he just jumped backwards. He 'fell on his bells' which made his eyes water and somehow we got hold of one of the crushed bells and even today it is attached to our sword bag as a 'trophy'. The scuffle was in the middle of Southwell and wasn't an actual fight but it did result in us making off with one of their top hats, which was later put behind the bar of the Bramley Apple for the owner to spot. Also, Steve Maidens in particular had some nasty 'concrete rashes' from the scrum. I'm not sure of the date - either 1997 or 1998. Can't be before '97 because that's when I joined (so I am an old monkey, I suppose). Certainly there has been no animosity between pigs and Monkeys since, quite the opposite in fact. Hope this helps,

Dave M '

[A simple process of elimination has it in 1997 as Black Pig didn't do the Gate in 1998]

Linda Hewing then said,

'Brilliant Dave! And wasn't there a ransom note from the Pigs saying something like '2 pints each, or the monkey gets it'? And I think the inflatable monkey once retrieved, was decidedly deflated and withered...'

Dave Mortin retorted,

'I don't remember the note, but I wouldn't put it past them...yes, our mascot was punctured - the bastards!!! Where are they!!!!!! Ahem.'

The website of Black Pig simply point out:

'We kidnapped, held to ransom and finally punctured Stone Monkey's precious blow up monkey on the Gate to Southwell one year'.

Dave Ledsam (Ex Dolphin and now a Monkey) replied, *'As a relatively recent returnee to rapper in general and Monkeys in particular, I heard about (mainly through Phil Heaton who is always good for a yarn) the Monkey exploits over the years. Battered busses, getting hopelessly lost, doing the crawl the wrong weekend and not noticing etc. There is a tradition of a cricket match each year on the bumpiest pitch (pub field) ever played on, some take it seriously!! This year we had a hotly disputed draw with Sallyport Rapper followed (or preceded can't remember which) by the annual quiz which was again closely run. Again a coach was booked and various pubs were danced at on route or not. I think we did end up in the Bramley Apple, and certainly did not disgrace the minster with our presence'.*

[The cricket match takes place annually on the Gate at the Waggon and Horses at Bleasby]

The Gate to Southwell 1997 The Gate to Sou
Southwell 1997 The Gate to Southwell 1997'

BEER TICKET

Thanks to Dorothy and George
at the Bramley Apple

and to Mansfield Brewery
Springhead Brewery
and Sherwood Forest Brewery

The Beer Ticket that each participant needed in order to claim their free at the Bramley Apple pub in Southwell was printed with thanks to:

'Dorothy and George at the Bramley Apple and to Mansfield Brewery, Springhead Brewery and Sherwood Forest Brewery'.

[For the beer tickets Bob used a secret font and kept the design in a locked time controlled safe until the morning of the Gate. It was then retrieved and taken under armed escort to a secret location where it was handed to Bob personally. Bob would check that the once only seal had not been tampered with. If Bob detected any form of foul play he would revert to the set of beer tickets that he kept in his back pocket. Apparently Bob always used the back pocket set].