



## **CHAPTER NINETEEN**

**1998**

**THE GATE MAKES THE JUNE PAGE  
OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL CALENDAR**

June 13th      The 18th Gate  
 Sides: Dolphin, Sgt Musgrave's, Maids of Clifton, Oaks & Acorns, Anstey  
 Royal Chalfont, Broadstone, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Green Velvet  
 Outlaws, Ladybay Revellers, Micklebarrow, Mortimer's, Stone Monkey.

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,  
 '1998. A 'happy chappy' Morris dancing on his way to Southwell'



Bob Hine's 1998 team invitation letter took the form of a proclamation written in the best 'olde English' that he could muster:

*'Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!*  
*Whereas it is now January in the year of m'lud one thousand*  
*nine hundred and ninety eight, and*  
*Whereas it is necessary in this season of the yeare to issue*  
*a proclamation and invitation to the event known as*  
*the gate to Southwell, and*  
*whereas the said event is to take place this yeare on*  
*Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> next and*  
*whereas it is by ancient custom, practice and useage required*  
*that the Morris dancers of this region, county and divers*  
*parishes affixed thereto process as by ancient custom to the*  
*Minster at Southwell via various and goodly hostelries, inns and*  
*Like premises.*  
*Hence, likewise the aforesaid dancers are cordially invited to*  
*Assemble before Maister Mayore in ye market place at*  
*Nottingham at 8.45 o'clock on said day Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.*  
*Whereas I should be grateful and am solicitous of your reply*  
*by carrier pigeon, catapult or other means of locomotion at an*  
*early date such that transport and ale can be arranged.*  
*Yours in antioipation* *Bob Hine*

A short piece made the press before the event, but although the cutting has been kept, no one noted what publication it came from! [The Evening Post or Newark Advertiser?]:

*'On Saturday June 13, a group of musicians and traditional English dancers will process through Southwell. They will be recreating 'The Gate to Southwell', an event which dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century when parishioners from all over Nottinghamshire came to present alms – the Southwell Pence or Pentecostals – to the county's mother church.*

*In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Morris dancers were paid by the Nottingham Council to accompany the Lord Mayor and Corporation on their annual journey to St Mary's. In commemoration of this, local Morris dancers have re-enacted the Gate to Southwell each year since 1981. On June 13 they will leave the Old Market Square in Nottingham at 9am when the Lord Mayor will hand over the city's Southwell Pence. This contribution was fixed centuries ago at 13 shillings and four pence in old money. During the day, the procession will pass through the Trent-side villages.*

*In Southwell, the dancers will assemble at the White Lion, Easthorpe at 5pm and will process along Church Street to the North Porch of the Minster. There, the Southwell Pence will be handed over to the Chapter Clerk.*

*Afterwards there will be a dance display in the Market Place. This year about 180 dancers and musicians are expected to take part in the Gate to Southwell, including the Dolphin Morrismen, Mortimer's Morris, Sergeant Musgrave's Dance, Oaks and Acorns, Maids of Clifton Anstey Royale Chalfont, Greenwood Clog, Aidley's, Micklebarrow, Black Pig Border, Chesterfield Garland Dancers, Clever Clogs, Broadstone Morrismen and the Green Velvet Outlaws. You are cordially invited to watch the procession and dance display – rain dances or no rain dances by special request!*

In a letter to George and Dorothy at the Bramley Apple pub Bob Hine says that he has written a short piece about the Gate for the 'Bramley Apple' May 1998 Issue. Bob also lets it be known that 'We're also on the Notts County Council calendar this year which is on the theme of crafts and customs, we are the June photo' – John Whitelaw an erstwhile DMM while having a sort out prior to moving house found a copy of the June 1998 page of the calendar and it shows the Maids of Clifton.

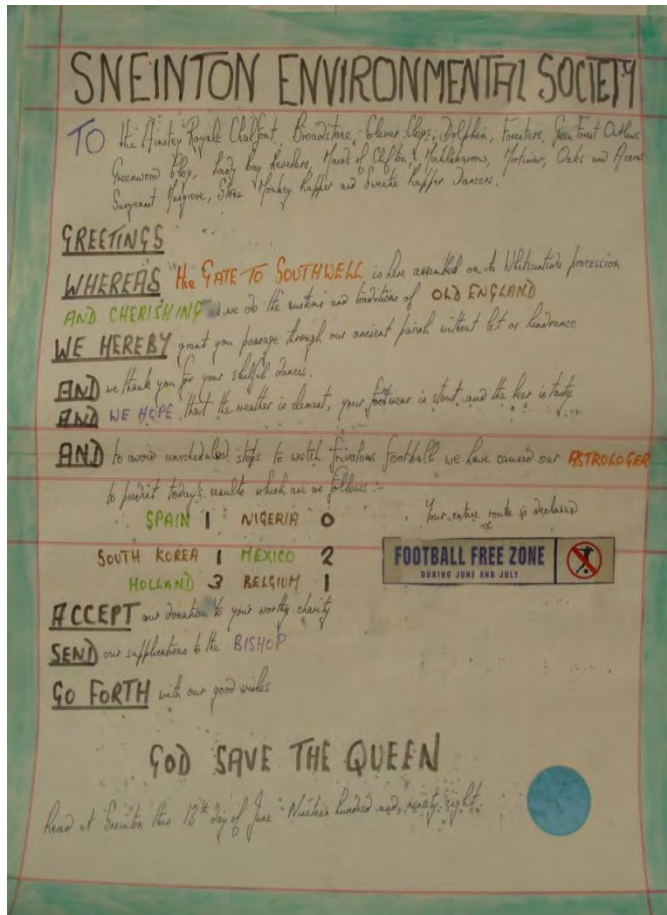
Tom Huggon once again produced a welcoming proclamation at Sneinton Hermitage and in 1998 this is what he said:

## SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Broadstone, Clever Clogs, Dolphin, Foresters, Green Forest Outlaws, Greenwood Clog, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, Mortimer, Oaks and Acorns, Sergeant Musgrave, Stone Monkey Rapper and Sweetie Rapper Dancers.

GREETINGS WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide procession AND CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND

WE HEREBY grant you passage through our ancient parish without let or hindrance



AND we thank you for your skilful dances

AND we hope that the weather is clement, your footwear is stout, and the beer is tasty

AND to avoid unscheduled stops to watch frivolous football we have caused our **ASTROLOGER** to predict today's results which are as follows:-

SPAIN 1 NIGERIA 0  
SOUTH KOREA 1 MEXICO 2  
HOLLAND 3 BELGIUM 1

Your entire route is a Football Free Zone During June and July

**ACCEPT** our donation to your worthy charity **SEND** our supplications to the **BISHOP**

**GO FORTH** with our good wishes  
**GOD**

SAVE THE QUEEN

Read at Sneinton this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June nineteen hundred and ninety eight

The DMM newsletter [written by Mike Wilkinson] reported in late June 1998, *Gate to Southwell. 13th June.*

*The rain dance performed on the Thursday night was so powerful that it affected most of the Saturday. A rather bedraggled Gate, but fun in a cozy, sitting in the pub, sort of way. Not many Dolphins turned up. Special thanks to Nick Murphy, who made a special trip to Southwell to play in the Minster, only to be usurped by Eric Foxley. At the Bramley Apple, there was a remarkable link with that first Gate in 1109, when Roy Dyson danced with Dolphin. No doubt researching a story [n.b. Roy is a bit of a storyteller and available for bookings]*

*I [MW] excelled myself by processing only to Sneinton, and out of Burton Joyce, and up Southwell main St., thus saving a great deal of energy. The effect was spoiled when I had to walk about 2 miles home from Carlton Square, where the bus dropped me off.*

*A bizarre bid by an outsider for the coveted Medias Tray [a DMM award given out at the side's AGM]: Bob tells me that he wrote to the Police to thank them for their help with the Gate last year, and that the Divisional Inspector therefore decided to turn up in person this year. There he*

was, outside the Council House, with a group of “Specials”, bang on time at 8:45am, but, er..., a week early. Still, he got the best of the weather.’



The Maids of Clifton became the June 1998 pin-ups in the Nottinghamshire County Council calendar. The photograph was from the 1997 Gate to Southwell and shows them dancing at Caythorpe outside the black horse. The inset photograph shows Ian Ambrose of Dolphin Morris Men handing over the Southwell Pence at the minster.

**Random Memory from Jayne Rose:** *My first experience of The Gate, is dancing with Oaks and Acorns Garland Team. The one enduring memory is of having to walk one of the “legs” with the cross in the pouring rain. Our cagoules only reached so far, which meant that we ended up with a foot of very wet skirt flapping around our legs!!*



## **CHAPTER TWENTY**

**1999**  
**BOB HINE HANDS OVER THE GATE**  
**REINS TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

June 12th      The 19th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Calverton, Foresters, Greenman Border, Ladybay Revellers, Man Friday, Oaks & Acorns, Black Pig, Green Velvet Outlaws, Greenwood Clog, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow Morris, Stone Monkey, Sweetie Rapper, Broadstone (rep)

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,

*'1999. I can remember little of this year.....but I do remember that I had little time to spare and so a quick solution was used - i.e. monochrome printing onto green paper. We have the Minster drawing once more, superimposed on a huge Morris bell!'*

Below: The final design on yellow background and the suggested green one



In 1999 Bob Hine stood down as the main organiser of the Gate. Ian Ambrose and Chris Gigg took over the job.

In a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 1999 Ian Ambrose wrote to The Reverend Canon Ian Collins:

*Dear Ian,*

*Bob is having a sabbatical this year so it falls to me to contact you. The Gate to Southwell will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June this year and we trust that it will be convenient with you to receive the procession and hold the short service as usual. Times should be as in previous years, but if there are any changes likely I will contact you again.*

*We look forward to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*Regards*

*Ian Ambrose'*

Canon Ian Collins replied:

*'Dear Mr Ambrose,*

*Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Gate to Southwell on 12<sup>th</sup> June.*

*We very much look forward to welcoming you all at the*

Minster once again and hope that the weather is fine for you. We will expect you as soon after 5 pm as possible – Evensong begins at 5.45 so timing is tight as usual.’

In a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> May Ian Ambrose wrote to The Bramley Apple:

‘Dear George and Dorothy,  
The Gate to Southwell 1999

Bob’s having a year off this year owing to family commitments, but will be with us on the day, so you will be able to catch up with his news then. In the meantime it falls to Chris and myself to keep it all going.

This year the Gate will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June and although numbers are slightly down on the last few years, about 100 at the last count, we anticipate a colourful procession.

We always look forward to coming to the Bramley Apple at the end of the procession and we hope that you will be able to host us again this year. Your efforts in twisting the arms of the breweries are always much appreciated. If you need publicity material for this and other appropriate local outlets please let me know.

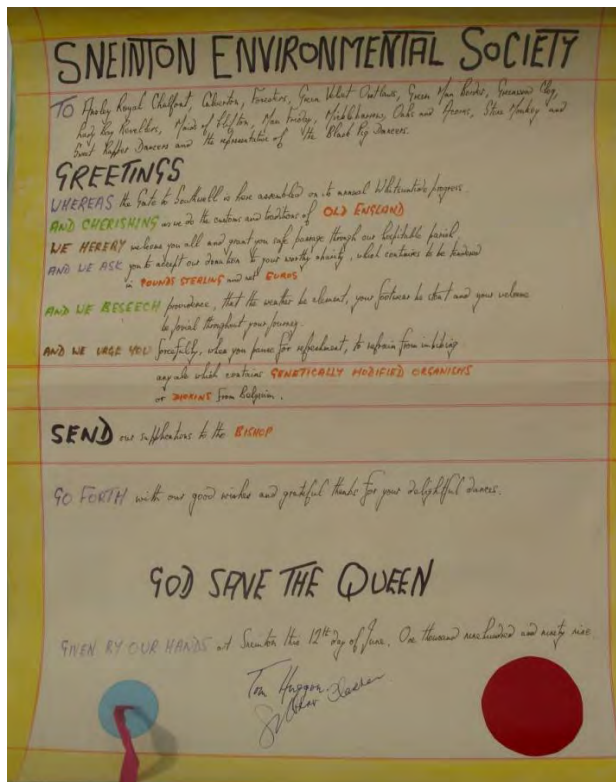
Once again we look forward to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours sincerely  
Ian Ambrose’.

At Sneinton Hermitage there was a presentation of a card to Tom Huggon with the words...

‘To Tom Huggon and colleagues from the Environmental Society with much appreciation from all of the sides who over the last 19 years have taken part in the annual Gate to Southwell’. There followed the names of 35 dancing sides who had all taken part at one time or another.

The 1999 proclamation:



SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO Anstey Royal Chalfont, Calverton, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Green Man Border, Greenwood Clog, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Man Friday, Micklebarrow, Oaks and Acorns, Stone Monkey and Sweetie Rapper Dancers and the representative of the Black Pig Dancers

GREETINGS WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its annual Whitsuntide progress AND CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND WE HEREBY welcome you all and grant you safe passage through our hospitable



parish AND WE ASK you to accept our donation to your worthy charity, which continues to be tendered in POUNDS STERLING and not EUROS AND WE BESEECH providence, that the weather be clement, your footwear be stout and your welcome be jovial throughout your journey.

AND WE URGE YOU forcefully, when you pause for refreshment, to refrain from imbibing any ale which contains GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS or DIORINS from Belgium

SEND our supplications to the BISHOP. GO FORTH with our good wishes and grateful thanks for your delightful dances.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given by our hands at Sneinton this 12th day of June. One thousand nine hundred and ninety nine Tom Huggon Gilbert Clarke



Anstey Royale Chalfont

Bob Hine and the Mayor start proceedings off



Halfway to Sneinton on the first leg





Tom and Gilbert pose for photographs at Sneinton

Bob marks a chalk 'X' where Tom has to stand

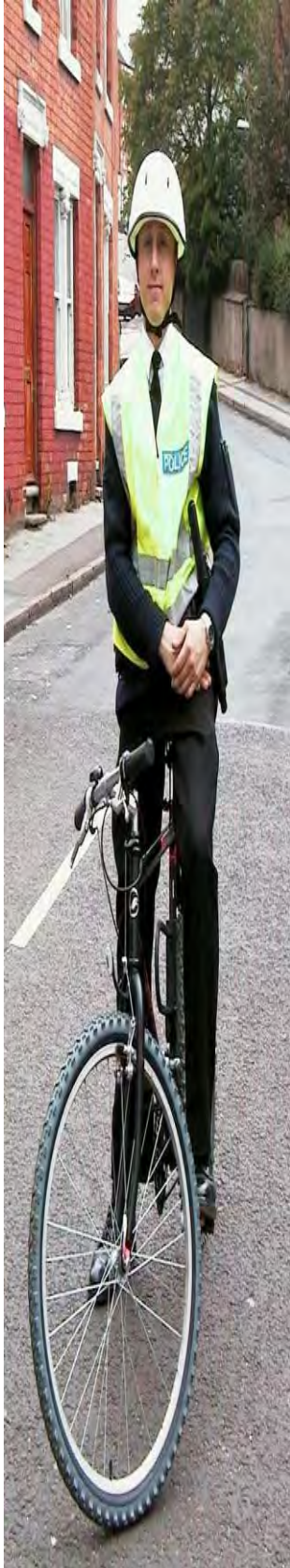


Chris Gigg in his Squire's report at the DMM 1999 AGM said,  
*'I was pleased that the Gate to Southwell was very successful and that so many Dolphins turned out in part or whole on the day. Dolphin danced in the Minster and our guest sides made favourable comments about the day. Steve and Bob have BIG plans for the next Gate. I hope they can count on your support next year'*.

Unusually Bob Hine made some notes about the day in a secret diary – here transcribed...:

*'Gate to Southwell 10th June 1999*

*After a week of grey cold rainy weather with many heavy thundery showers, the weather for the Gate was perfect: largely sunny and a cool breeze. There were lots of people in Slab Square by 8.30, and a good turnout of sides. About 15 by my reckoning: Sgt Musgrave's 27, Mortimer's + border side Plum Jerkum from Coventry 31, Revellers 16 or so, Anstey Royale Chalfont similar, Stone Monkey 15-20, the sides from Green Velvet Outlaws and Maids; wraiths [?] of Calverton turned out to do a plough play with Paul Prior as Superman! Stone Monkey did mostly long-sword with Phil Heaton & others playing bagpipes. So we had NW clog (including garland dances), Border (Black Pig also) Rapper (Green VO) Cotswold (Dolphin, a couple from Micklebarrow, a couple from New St George, a couple from Man Friday, a Broadstone man etc) Two buses a single and double-decker from Silverline? About £550. The Lord Mayor, Ian Malcolm turned out to be a complete wet: the worst yet.*



*The police said they were stretched because of a big firearms job on Friday evening. The procession went well to Sneinton where Tom Huggon & his girlfriend, and Gilbert & a guy with a beard met us. Tom's speech was anti[?]-police (lack of). He has given us his speeches for the last 20 years.*

*From Sneinton a walking party set off first – Ian Ambrose, Mike Nesbit & a group of Revellers. So Tom and co. did two walks up the hill. The rest of us drove to Burton Joyce and processed to the Cross Keys. There was a good display co-ordinated by Roy Dyson. We processed to the end of the village – stopping on the way at a very good sandwich shop.*

*Not much dancing at the Ship – left at 1.20 and processed to the Railway where Stone Monkey were disappointed by the change of management. Then on to the Old Volunteer where there was a substantial dance display on the road. I missed Caythorpe and bussed on to the Marquis of Granby for dancing. Processed to the end of Hoveringham village where the bus was waiting, but carried on through the field (the grass was cut this year!) and on to Thurgarton where there was more dancing. Meanwhile Dave W took Elaine to hospital because of a blow to the hand, and another Reveller got a taxi home because he had hit himself on the head [presumably accidentally!]. Also consternation on Sgt Musgrave bus because the ladies in the side wanted to stop at the tea shop instead of the Waggon and Horses – Jack Dawes was very unhappy with this'*

*Bob Hine, (transcribed 6th February 2009)*

*The Gate To Southwell (according to the DMM newsletter 'Spout'):*

*It is no secret that the Gate is not my favourite event of the year, but I must reluctantly concede that this year it was pretty good. There - I've said it.*

*It was very good, actually. The weather was fine, except for a torrential cloudburst at Fiskerton which necessitated hiding in the pub for a while. The standard of dancing from Dolphin was high, all day. We had a full side for most of the day. We danced Valentine in the Minster and I reckon we did it bloody well, especially as we'd been drinking, walking and dancing all day, and Chris's leg was dropping off. Well done to everyone who turned up at any time during the day, and thanks.*

*The other sides were, er... varied. I saw some of the best and some of the worst rapper I've ever seen; some good and bad border; and some excellent Cotswold. Best dance of the day was a jig by Steve Earwicker of Foresters, who did an unusual "Fool's Jig" with two sticks, which I will attempt to learn.*

Steve Earwicker not dancing the fool's jig with two sticks



*The worst dance of the day was from a side whom it would be unfair to name in print, who did their usually excellent 5 person dance with one person who had never done it before (or, apparently, seen it before, or even read about it in a book) in the Market Square before the procession.*

*Sickliest dance of the day was from the unfortunately named Sweetie Rapper who came on, not with a song about bonny lads, but shouting, "We're sweet, we're sticky (?!), we're sickly, we're..." oh, I can't remember... full of calories? Anyway, you get the idea. The award for the most drunken Morris Man of the day goes without question to a Mr. Michael Nesbitt, of no fixed abode (now) near Lady Bay.*

*The day ended on a high with quite a long session in the Bramley Apple. Lady Morris Dancers were delegated on a rota basis to distract the driver of one of the buses. At one end of the pub we had music and singing; at the other, an impromptu band was formed, tables were moved back and there was social dancing. The Bramley Apple always makes us welcome - I wonder if it's too far out for a summer tour? What a contrast with the Bromley Arms, which had the misfortune to be on our route at the time of the downpour. As a result, they must have sold about 100 pints, as well as coffee, crisps and soft drinks, but I understand that they objected to the noise, and to the theft of a few beer glasses. I don't condone the theft, of course, but in context, I think they overreacted'.*



The toilet queue was an ever popular event but watch out for outlaws!





Steve Daniels made a dash for the front, the outlaws wouldn't beat him next time



The Man Friday twins Jack and Ian managed to evade their keeper





'Can you walk this way? 'No this way'. Okay go which way you want...



Sweetie Rapper rap very sweetly

Greenwood Clog (and you can't argue with that)



Stern Munkee in a tangle



Mick Nesbitt teaches Bonny Green Garters to the Maids of Clifton



'Buy an Anstey Royale badge sir?'

The Gate to Southwell 1999

BEER TICKET

Cheers! George & Dorothy

No photographs at The Bramley Apple, too busy drinking and carousing.

Apology and Correction from the editor of 'Spout'

*Following my write up of the Gate to Southwell in the last Newsletter, I have received an approach from lawyers acting for Mr. Michael Nesbitt of no fixed abode, Lady Bay. The editorial team, the publishers, and their servants, agents, employees, and any people they have met, would like to take this opportunity to apologise to Mr. Nesbitt for any offence caused by the allegation that he was in any way inebriated or intoxicated on or after the Gate to Southwell 1999. We have agreed to publish the following statement from Mr. Nesbitt:*

'De@r S!r, !t h@s come lo my @ttentiom th@t ! @m the recipienl of the @w'rd'

So much for optical character recognition software. I'll type it out:

1/7/99 4:00 pm. (It's raining again)

*"Dear Sir,*

*It has come to my attention that I am the recipient of an award based on my performance during and after this year's Gate to Southwell. Whilst I am deeply honoured to be considered for this coveted and much sought after gong, I feel that I am unworthy on three counts.*

*I consider it my civic duty to strive for perfection in my attempts to divert attention from normal folk so that they can sleep easy in their cots in the knowledge that they will not be featured in the Sunday rags under the heading, "By our Midlands Correspondent". Unfortunately, on this occasion, I failed to achieve my usual standards, namely:*

- 1. I failed to smash the whole glass and even managed to save some of the ale.*
- 2. I failed to crack my head open or even bruise my posterior when trying out the hot seat in the fire grate.*
- 3. I failed to affect Stone Monkey's performance by beating a totally different rhythm to the one that they were so competently dancing to.*

*I therefore feel, in my heart of hearts, that I cannot accept the award that I have so often striven for.*

*My nomination must go to the young Monkey who was so stoned that even my erratic beating of an unfortunate goat in his ear failed to rouse him from his well-earned slumber.*

*Your ever faithful servant and admirer,*

*(Name and address supplied.)*

*P.S. Who did move that table and chair?"*

I hope we can now draw a line under this matter. My only remaining question is one arising from Mike Nesbitt's handwriting: was he trying to rouse him with his erratic beating, or arouse him with his erotic beating? Ed.



## **CHAPTER TWENTY ONE**

**2000  
PERIOD COSTUME RETURNS TO THE  
GATE (BUT NO ONE THOUGHT TO TAKE ANY  
PHOTOS)**

June 10th      The 20th Gate  
Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original, Black Pig, Lady Bay Revellers, Man Friday, Mortimers Morris, Plum Jerkum, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Calverton, Green Velvet Outlaws, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow, New St George, Sgt Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Foresters

The chosen charity was: The Railway Children.  
The Minster being otherwise in use, the service took place outside; and Ladybay Revellers provided the dance during the service.

Mike Nesbitt printed the leaflets in 2000

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,  
*'2000. A bit of a failure this one - serves me right for appropriating someone else's digital image. It shows the walkers and dancers from a previous year posing in front of the minster'*



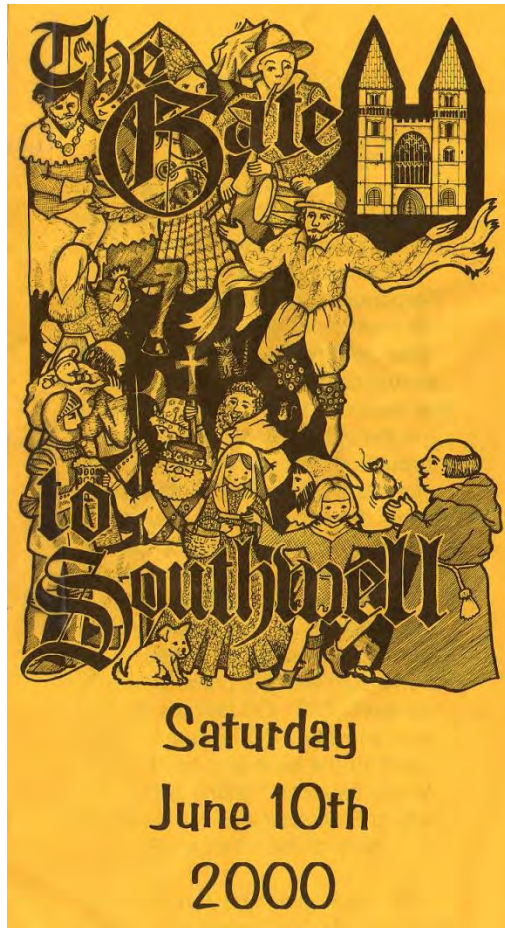
The badge and the blank. Reluctantly one has to agree with Chris's findings. The photograph used was from the group outside the Minster in 1981. The wording actually says, ***'2000 years of Christianity & into the New Millenium'***.

The letter of invite to side's states,  
*'This year we are returning to our original format of the dancers being accompanied by walkers in period costume (any period from 1109 to 1999). We intend to raise money through sponsorship and collection en route for a chosen charity, this year "Railway Children".'*

In a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2000 from Charles Chambers of Broadstone Morris Men he asks;  
*'Dear Bob,  
Please could you send me a programme for this year's Gate to Southwell? I am a rather infrequent member of Broadstone, who I gather will not be taking part this year. I would like to do so, possibly joining the procession at Burton Joyce if that's acceptable.  
As a matter of marginal interest the parish of Cromwell "sent 1s 10d yearly at Whitsuntide as its Pentecostal offering to the mother church at Southwell from 1171 onwards".'*

*I hope the preparation for this years Gate are going well, and that the event will be as spectacular as ever. More people should take advantage of such marvellous FREE entertainment'*

*Yours etc'.*



The three fold programme cover

As always Tom Huggon prepared a proclamation on a scroll and read it out in his best Town Criers tones:

### SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey All Original, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig, Calverton Morris, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Man Friday, Micklebarrow Morris, Mortimers Morris, New St George, Plum Jerkum, Sergeant Musgrave, and Stone Monkey Dancing Troupes.

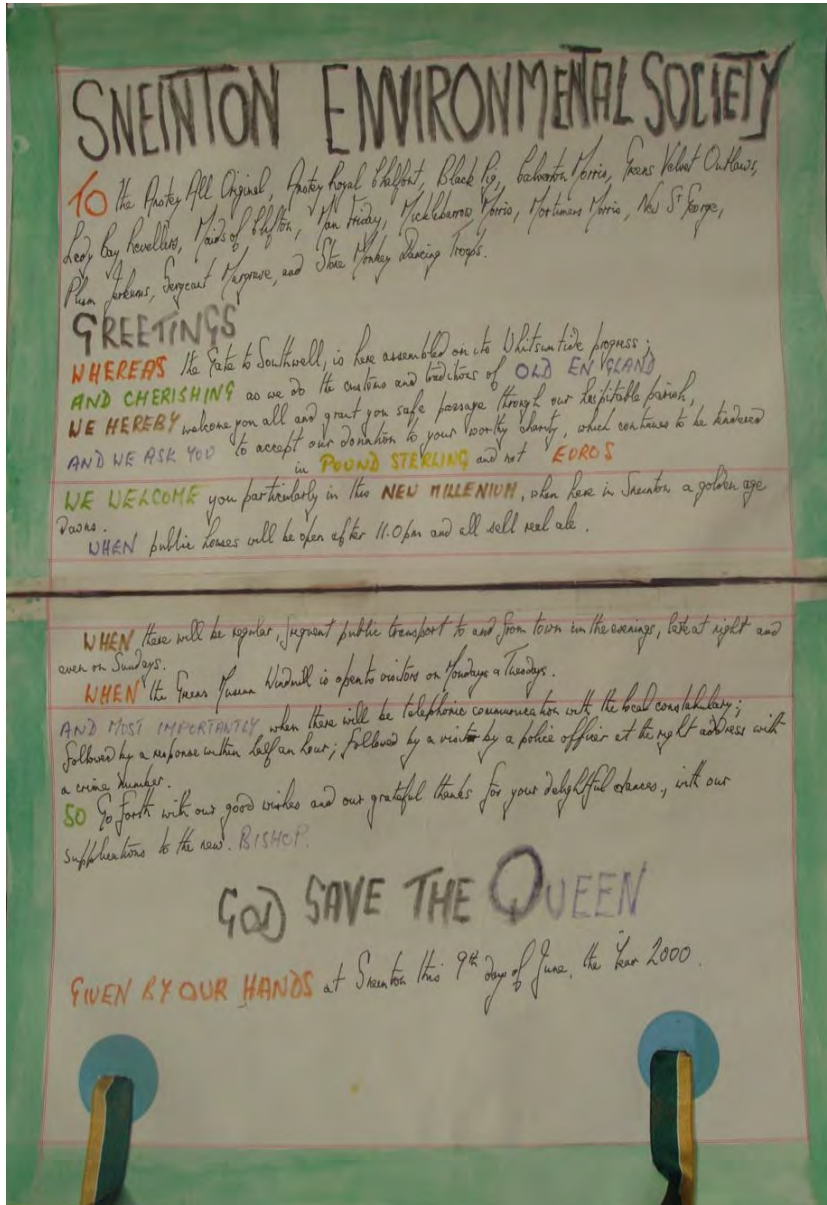
### GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide progress AND CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND



WE HEREBY welcome you all and grant you safe passage through our hospitable parish  
AND WE ASK YOU to accept our donation to your worthy charity, which continues to  
be tendered in pounds sterling and not EUROS

WE WELCOME you particularly in the NEW MILLENIUM, when here in Sneinton  
a golden age dawns WHEN public houses will be open after 11.0pm and all sell real ale.  
WHEN there will be regular, frequent public transport to and from town in the evenings late  
at night and even on Sundays WHEN the Greens museum Windmill is open to visitors on



Mondays & Tuesdays.

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY** when there will be telephonic communications with the local Constabulary; followed by a response within half an hour; followed by a visit by a Police Officer at the right address with a crime number

**SO** go forth with our good wishes and our grateful thanks for your delightful dances, with our supplications to the new **BISHOP**

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN  
GIVEN BY OUR  
HANDS** at Sneinton this  
9th day of June, the year  
2000



DMM relax in the sun and Right: Mike Wilkinson plays mouthorgan for Mike Nesbitt to dance a jig next to sailor Ted Hutchby's mooring

The DMM newsletter written by Mike Wilkinson reported, *'Gate to Southwell, 10th June 2000. Fine weather, with sunshine most of the way, and a big and varied turnout of dancers made this an excellent Gate.*

*There was little or no dancing in the Square before the Mayor made his speech - or at least, I noticed none. This year's Mayor is a complete wet blanket. Chatting with him and Bob, I remarked that we had done the Gate for 20 years and that it had been a different Mayor every year - obviously these young Mayors of today have no staying power. He immediately launched into an explanation of the complex and sometimes tense relationship between the local authorities and the Crown in medieval times which had made an annual Mayoral election necessary to reduce the risk of one person establishing himself in a position of power. Even Bob glazed over, and he likes history. When the Mayor handed over the Southwell Pence to me, I shook his hand for longer than was strictly necessary, partly for the photographers, partly for the joke and finally, when the whimpering became too irritating, to wind him up. "Please stop. No, please, stop... please, stop....pleeease..." Pancakes, cabers and coins a specialty, as they say.*

*By contrast, Tom and his mate, Gilbert, in Sneinton gave us a rousing reception, with Tom making a speech about Sneinton's brave new dawn (sounds like a nice girl) - a speech which strayed into the political to the extent that the W.I. were starting to fidget, and the Police began moving closer and fingering their truncheons.*

*I walked the whole distance, suffering severe blisters in the process, so I missed almost all of the dancing. I gather that good shows were put on at several points along the way. Dolphin, as usual, were spread rather thinly (one in the Antarctic, one at Nick's house, one at Joe's house, one in America - that sort of thing) but we did have a side from time to time. Nice to see Jon Melville, in Dolphin kit, and enjoying his dancing. ("No, let's not do a Bampton. Let's do something worthwhile.") Roy was there in an organisational capacity. A few ex Dolphins were scattered around as usual - Steven Gee, Phil Heaton and so on.*

*Edward, who once famously danced a jig at 30,000 fathoms in the Trent, arrived at Hoveringham in his sailing canoe, complete with his faithful dawg, Tige. With a strong breeze*

*blowing downstream after a period of heavy rain he had made a swift passage and had been waiting for an hour. Paddling home could take a little longer, but if supplies run out he can eat the dog and sing songs to keep his spirits up. (Edward, your Newsletter is in the wine bottle drifting past, just out of reach.)*

*At one of the pubs in the afternoon, (Ladybay) Revellers were getting a little over-boisterous and a dance suddenly broke out, ending in Elaine suffering extensive hand-injuries, and one of the few male Revs (Phil?) suffering applied traumatic percussion to the head, causing concussion. Someone rang the hospital to say that a Morris man on tour was dazed, confused and not seeing straight. “And your point is...?” enquired the nurse. The casualty was rushed in a taxi to the QMC, which in this case stood for “Queue for Morris Concussions” as he was still waiting to be treated when I checked on the following Friday.*

*The walkers arrived at Southwell on time, and there was an orderly procession to the Minster, only to find that it was in use: some religious event or the other. We handed over the dosh, sang a couple of songs and bugged off to the pub. Next year we pay by Direct Debit. It’s always seemed silly to me that 150 people walk 20 miles to meet 1 Bishop. If he wants cash, he can walk over to us. You know it makes sense.*

*Thanks to the organisers, including at least: Bob, Chris G., Ian A. and Chris D. Thanks to Roy for organising dance spots on the day. Congratulations to Joe Deuchar on his first appearance in the new improved dolphin. He’s made some genuine improvements to it, and it now looks slightly less like the shipwreck of a canoe.*

*Finally a heart-warming tale of charity fundraising. We raised a total of £73 for charity, a mind boggling 10 bob each, or a tanner per person per mile. This money was raised for ‘The Railway Children’.*



The Green Velvet Outlaws  
'locked' outside the dentist

Anstey Royale Chalfont in Lowdham. Lyn Cooper says, 'taken by my mother on a very grotty camera but perhaps better than nothing'



Above and next: Sergeant Musgrave's dance at the Railway and in the next photo relaxing with tea and cakes at The Ship Inn



Anstey Royale Chalfont at Caythorpe



## Maids of Clifton at the Old Volunteer at Caythorpe



The traditional free pint at the end of the procession is acknowledged to George and Dorothy at The Bramley Apple plus Mansfield Brewery, Springhead Brewery and the new Sherwood Forest Brewery.

Before the free drink there was a little matter of a visit to the Minster for a ceremony and a service.



Here Bob tries to get a game of 'Simon Says' going but no-one wanted to play



Ladybay Revellers dance outside the Minster because something religious was going on inside



Kathryn Butler of Plum Jerkum says, '*Plum Jerkum danced in 2000 - I was pregnant!*'

Linda Hewing recalls, '*Plum Jerkum did dance on the Gate one year (as guest of Mortimer's I believe, in 2000 or 2001) - my sister was dancing with them at the time. I have a picture of me in Mort's kit, Dena in Plum and Tom in Anstey kit, relaxing at the Ship*'.

**Some more photographs from the 2000 Gate;**

Below: Black Swan Rapper with Stone Monkey at The Bramley Apple deciding whether or not to have a drink



Banner and Cross at the Railway Inn, Lowdham







## **CHAPTER TWENTY TWO**

### **2001 SAILORS IN SQUARE FORCE SNEINTON START**

June 9th      The 21st Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Broadstone, Bunnies From Hell, Calverton, Chesterfield Garland, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Lincoln & Micklebarrow Morris, New St. George, Shuttlers Clog, Tatterfoals Morris, Sullivan's Sword, Stone monkey Rapper, Micklebarrow

Dancing in the Minster was – Anstey Royal Chalfont



The chosen charity was: SCOPE – a national disability organisation whose focus is people with cerebral palsy.

Chris Deuchar, who designed the 2001 Gate badge based it upon TMA1 The Tycho Monolith, and says:

*'2001. This one revived 1998's 'happy chappy' and shows him dancing toward the Minster - symbolically appearing on a Stanley Kubrick style TMA1 from '2001 - A Space Odessey' - and with a stick (of course!) rather than handkerchiefs.'*



Extract from Arthur C. Clark's 2001 A Space Odyssey

*"The darkened assembly room became suddenly hushed and expectant as the picture on the screen changed. Though everyone had seen it many times, there was not a person who failed to crane forward as if hoping to find new details. On Earth and Moon, less than a hundred people had so far been allowed to set eyes on this photograph. It showed a man in a bright red and yellow spacesuit standing at the bottom of an excavation and supporting a surveyor's rod marked off in tenths of a meter. It was obviously a night shot, and might have been taken anywhere on the Moon or Mars. But until now no planet had ever produced a scene like this. The object before which the space suited man was posing was a vertical slab of jet-black material, about ten feet high and five feet wide: it reminded Floyd, somewhat ominously, of a giant tombstone. Perfectly sharp-edged and symmetrical, it was so black it seemed to have swallowed up the light*

*falling upon it; there was no surface detail at all. It was impossible to tell whether it was made of stone or metal or plastic - or some material altogether unknown to man. "TMA-1," Dr. Michaels declared, almost reverently. "It looks brand new, doesn't it? I can hardly blame those who thought it was just a few years old, and tried to connect it with the third Chinese Expedition, back in '98. But I never believed that - and now we've been able to date it positively, from local geological evidence. "My colleagues and I, Dr. Floyd, will stake our reputations on this. TMA-1 has nothing to do with the Chinese. Indeed, it has nothing to do with the human race - for when it was buried, there were no humans. "You see, it is approximately three million years old. What you are now looking at is the first evidence of intelligent life beyond the Earth."*

The Gate to Southwell 2001

~  
Participating sides  
~

Dolphin Morris  
Anstey Royal Chalfont  
Bare Bones  
Black Pig  
Braybrooke Morris  
Broastone Morris  
Bunnies  
Calverton Morris  
Chesterfield Garland  
Foresters  
Green Velvet Outlaws  
Lady Bay Revellers  
Maids of Clifton  
Micklebarrow Morris/Lincoln  
New St. George  
Shuttlers Clog

Organiser  
**Bob Hine**  
01509 880635

In 2001 the 'Times and route of the procession' was:

*08.45 Procession leaves the Council House to meet the dancers at Sneinton Hermitage.*

*09.30 Tom Huggon of the Sneinton Environmental Society starts the procession by handing over the "Southwell Pence" to the dancers.*

*The dancers leave the Hermitage, dancing and processing towards Burton Joyce.*

*10.15 The procession arrives at Burton Joyce and then travels through the village to the Cross Keys public house, where there will be a dance display.*

*11.00 The procession leaves travelling towards Lowdham.*

*11.30 Arrive at the Magna Charta, Lowdham and is joined by dancers as far as the Old Ship, arriving at 12.00. A lunch break is taken, followed by dance displays.*

*12.45 The procession leaves Lowdham, accompanied by dancers, passing the Railway Inn and the Old Volunteer. It then heads to the Black Horse at Caythorpe.*

1.45 Marquis of Granby, Hoveringham  
 2.45 Coach and Horses, Thurgarton  
 3.30 Wagon and Horses, Bleasby  
 4.15 Bromley Arms, Fiskerton  
 4.50 White Lion, Easthorpe  
 5.00 Leave the White Lion to arrive at the Minster for 5.15. There will be a short service following the handing over of the "Southwell Pence"  
 Everybody adjourns to the Bramley Apple.  
 Times are approximate and could be subject to change!!!

A Photo and short caption made it to the Trader Pictorial on June 21<sup>st</sup>:

**‘Morris men on parade**

*More than 100 Morris men and women from across the East Midlands danced the Gate to Southwell all the way to the town from Nottingham.  
 The event dates back to the year 1109, when the Archbishop of York asked every parish in the county to contribute to the building of Southwell Minster. The offerings were brought by a procession.’*



In his 2001 letter of invite to teams Bob Hine wrote,  
*‘We had a fantastic response to last year’s Gate with some 15 sides and over 160 dancers. Dance traditions represented included Cotswold, Northwest, Rapper and Border. Also we welcomed individual members as well as complete sides.  
 The success of the Millennium Gate has set the standard for next year’s event.*

*Firstly there will be a procession ALL the way to Southwell for those who are willing. Generally, the tours and dance spots will be similar to previous years. We will be raising lots of money for charity this year, so we are looking for volunteers (both dancers and walkers) to process all the way to the Minster under sponsorship...*

*Secondly, we hope that you will invite another Morris Dance side from outside the East Midlands, to swell the numbers involved.'*



Left: Chris Gigg explained; 'HMS Nottingham have the right to Muster in Nottingham Market square and did so that day. The Police would not allow both to happen as they would only police one event. The copper who organises the lot, Reece Hibbert, asked me if I had booked the market square, I hadn't. I do now though!

We met at the Castle Gates for those who wanted to do the whole trip. I think it was just Steve, Bob and me. A picture in the archive shows Steve leaning on a lamp-post, it was at the Castle Gates. All the teams assembled at Sneinton

Below: More members of the mini procession on Friar Lane with Nottingham Castle grounds visible in the background



# SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

To the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Barebones Morris, Black Pig, Broadstone, Bunnies, Calverton Morris, Chesterfield Garland, Green Velvet Outlaws, Foresters, Lady Bay Revellers, Mids of Blifton, Mucklebarrow Morris, New St George, Shuttlers Clog, Stone Monkey, and Sullivan Sword Dancers.

## GREETINGS

**WHEREAS** the Gate to Southwell is here to proceed on its Whitsuntide procession having been displaced from its accustomed assembly in the Old Market Square by miscellaneous matabolists and sundry sailors **AND CHERISHING** as we do the customs and traditions of **OLD ENGLAND**

**WE WELCOME** you all on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the Captain of H M S Nottingham to set out on your pilgrimage from here, **AND** grant you safe passage and comfort upon you all the **FREEDOM OF THE PARISH OF SNEINTON**

**WE HOPE** that your footwear will be stout, the ale good and the weather clearest

**THERE ARE** two important pieces of intelligence which we impart for your well being on your journey

1. Avoid any sheep or cattle showing any signs of foaming or frothing.
2. Mind to whom you speak in the parliamentary constituency of **NEWARK** as we have received disturbing reports that they have recently fallen into their old habit of voting **CONSERVATIVE**

**ACCEPT** our contributions to your worthy charity  
**SEND** our supplications to the good **BISHOP**  
**GO FORTH** with jolly dances and our best wishes

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given at Sneinton, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2001.

By Ploggers.

Robert Clancy

Tom Haggan

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Barebones Morris, Black Pig, Broadstone, Bunnies, Calverton Morris, Chesterfield Garland, Green Velvet Outlaws, Foresters, Lady Bay

Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow Morris, New St George, Shuttler's Clog, Stone Monkey and Sullivan's Sword Dancers

## GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here to proceed on its Whitsuntide procession having been displaced from its accustomed assembly in the Old Market Square by miscellaneous matelots and sundry sailors, AND,

CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND. WE WELCOME you all on behalf of the new Lord Mayor and the Captain of HMS Nottingham to set out on your pilgrimage from here AND grant you safe passage and infer upon you all the FREEDOM OF THE PARISH OF SNEINTON. WE HOPE that your footwear will be stout, the ale good and the weather clement THERE ARE two important pieces of intelligence which we impart for your well being on your journey

Avoid any sheep or cattle showing any signs of foaming or frothing

Mind to whom you speak in the parliamentary constituency of NEWARK as we have



received disturbing reports that they have recently fallen into their old habit of voting CONSERVATIVE. ACCEPT our contribution to your worthy charity, SEND our supplications to the good BISHOP. GO FORTH with jolly dances and our best wishes

GOD SAVE  
THE QUEEN

Given at Sneinton,  
Saturday 9th June 2001

G. Rogerson Gilbert  
Clarke Tom Huggon

The June 2001 DMM newsletter written by Mike Wilkinson reported...after the pre Gate Meeting on 8th May 2001:

*Thanks to Chris and Elaine for hosting a meeting about this year's Gate to Southwell on Tuesday 8th May. Those present were: Bob Hine, Chris Gigg, Dave Walters, Mike Nesbitt, Mike Wilkinson.*

*I'm not one for meetings, so I can't compare it to anything else, except to say it was much more organised than when I was involved in planning the Fools' Weekends. (The Fools' Weekends were always sorted out by Fools' Union barons in smock filled rooms.) [It's a Morris Ring thing] This year we will be starting the Gate at Sneinton, as the Old Market Square is out of bounds due to a parade by H.M.S. Nottingham. (If you ask me, they'll never get it to float in the fountains.) This gives us a bit more time later in the day, so there will be a longer than usual dance spot at Burton Joyce, and Bleasby. The Women's Institute at Bleasby will be providing free cups of tea for the dancers and walkers. At the time of writing, we are expecting about 125 dancers from a total of 18 sides. There will be two or possibly three buses available.*

*Chris Deuchar is working on the badges. This year's design, in keeping with the 2001 theme, shows a Morris man dancing towards a black monolith not unlike TMA1 in 2001 a Space Odyssey.*

*The nominated charity for the collection on the way is Scope, which is a national organisation focusing on children with cerebral palsy. Sides are being invited to donate the proceeds of a nominated tour or booking (e.g. the tour immediately before the Gate) to Scope, as well as collecting sponsorship etc.'*



The 2001 Gate starting point at Sneinton where Tom Huggon stood in for the Mayor for the first time since the Gate was revived in 1981.





The July 2001 DMM newsletter also written by Mike Wilkinson reported,

*'Saturday 9th June 2001. Dolphins present were Andy (qua Reveller) Bob, Chris D. (in Black Pig kit), Chris G., Dave, Ian A., Martin, Mike, Nick, Roy (in civvies) and Steve. If I missed anyone, I apologise, but someone put alcohol in my beer. There were one or two ex Dolphins there too, like Ste(v/ph)en Gee, and Phil Heaton.*

*This year's Gate was disrupted by a parade by the matelots of HMS Nottingham, which meant that we were banned from the Old Market Square. A token force walked down from the Square and met the main body of the procession at Sneinton Hermitage, where we drank tea, ate biscuits and enjoyed the traditional speech from Tom Huggon.*

*Roy organised the dance spot at the Cross Keys in Burton Joyce, skilfully coordinating the show so that Border, Clog, Cotswold, Longsword, Molly, and Rapper were interspersed for maximum variety. It was a long show, but it went like clockwork.*

*Lunch, as usual, was at the Old Ship at Lowdham, with a few of us sneaking off to the bakery to admire Steve's technique chatting up the assistant. The chippy has closed down, which was a bit of a blow. The procession out of Lowdham was interrupted by a cloud burst, forcing many of the dancers to shelter in the Railway. Wet on the outside so wet on the inside seemed to be the motto.*

*There was a long show at the Coach and Horses. Tea and scones were served by the W.I. at Bleasby – Steve Daniels allegedly had several free scones, his legendary charm not deserting him. Some of us preferred to stop at the Waggon and Horses where there was beer and a barbecue.*

*The procession through Southwell to the Minster was enlivened by one or two motorists who were in a particular hurry, so much so that their priorities were perceived to overrule the priorities of the 150 people in front of them and the seven people watching. Full marks to the musician from Sullivan's Sword who formed a road block with his bicycle. Quote of the year, from the motorist who leapt out of his car and ran across to confront him: 'Oi! Remember: manners maketh a man. So f\*\*\* off!'*

*For the first time I can remember, the Southwell Pence were handed over inside the Minster. There was a short service, with music played by Nick. Anstey Royale Chalfont did an excellent dance. The sound of a big drum played inside that splendid building was something to hear.*

*Finally, there was free beer and much dancing outside the Bramley Apple. After an unpromising start, with clouds and rain, the day had finished a great success, and everyone had a great time. I met one or two sides I hadn't seen before and some of them may be able to make it to our Thursday evening at the Star in July.*

*Money collected in the week before the Gate, and on the Gate itself was raised for Scope, a charity that helps children with cerebral palsy.'*



The procession leaves Sneinton

Mike Wilkinson wrote a review of the 2001 Gate to Southwell with the title, ‘The Gate to Southwell 2001’;

***‘Naval Manoeuvres Force Additional Beer Drinking – Exclusive’***

*This year’s Gate was a little shorter than usual for most of us, which meant more time could be spent in the pubs along the route. Sailors from HMS Nottingham were putting on a display in the Old Market Square and the Morris dancers were excluded from the area as a threat to national security. We understand that attempts to float HMS Nottingham in the fountains were abandoned around 2.30 pm.*

***More or Less What Happened***

*A few walkers defied Her Majesty’s Royal Navy by walking down from the Square when no one was looking, and they met the main bulk of the Morris dancers at Sneinton, where there was tea and coffee, followed by the traditional speech of welcome from Tom Huggon. Tom’s speeches have become a much loved feature of the Gate over many years, with their satirical topical references. This year he urged us to watch out for livestock with foam flecked lips and sore feet – little realising that he was providing a vivid description of his audiences as they would appear some twenty miles later in Southwell.*

*The biggest dance display of the Gate is always at Burton Joyce. Traditionally, this is the last part of the day that can realistically be described as “organised”. Every side performed at least one dance, co-ordinated by Roy Dyson. The Cotswold dancers also put on a brief massed display, and everyone joined in Bonny Green Garters.*

*Lunch was at the Old Ship at Lowdham, with a few impromptu dances from the more energetic sides. We processed from Lowdham until a brief downpour forced us to retreat into the Railway Inn. There were various dance spots along the way – notably at the Black Horse (where the landlady provided free chips for all the dancers!) and at the Coach and Horses. The landlord of the Waggon and Horses (no relation) had organised a barbecue, providing an alternative for those who didn’t fancy the free tea and scones provided by the W.I. in the village hall.*

*The Gate ended with the usual procession down the main street to Southwell Minster. The Chapter Clerk accepted our traditional donations (the “Southwell Pence”) then there was a short service, and an excellent dance from Anstey Royale Chalfont. There was free beer at the Bramley Apple (with many thanks to the Springhead Brewery), and with much dancing outside from those with energy to spare.*



***Those Pubs in Full!***

*Over a long day, some or all of the dancers and walkers made it to at least the following 12 pubs. If you had a pint in each, that was a gallon and a half, which explains why you kept having to stop on the way home. 10.30. Dance display at the Cross Keys, Burton Joyce; 11.20. Magna Charta, Lowdham; 12.00. The Ship, Lowdham; 12.50. The Railway & the Old Volunteer, Lowdham; 1.30. The Black Horse, Caythorpe; 2.00. Marquis of Granby, Hoveringham; 2.30. Coach & Horses, Thurgarton; 3.00. Waggon & Horses, Bleasby; 3.40. Bromley Arms, Fiskerton; 4.50. White Lion, Easthorpe; 5.45. Bramley Apple, Southwell.*

Aubrey and Phil of Stone Monkey at the Cross Keys, Burton Joyce. Both destined to become Gold Badge holders of the EFDSS

***Sides Present***

*In no order of particular merit, the sides present included at least the following. If I've missed anyone, I apologise, but someone put alcohol in my beer.*

*Anstey Royale Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Pig, Braybrooke Morris, Broadstone Morris, Bunnies From Hell, Calverton Morris, Chesterfield Garland, Dolphin Morris, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow/Lincoln Morris, New St. George, Shuttlers Clog, Stone Monkey, Sullivans Sword, Tatterfoals Morris.*



Ladybay Revellers perform at the tea and scone stop at Bleasby village hall

***What Does It All Mean, Then?***

*The Gate to Southwell originated in 1109 when drone drone blah blah unnecessary detail, blah blah drone drone going on a bit...*

*Well it's an excuse for a day out innit? Bob Hine, Dolphin's amateur historian, an all round great bloke, but far too serious minded for his own good, was reading some late medieval manuscripts one day – as you do – when he found two references to Morris Dancing. One says, "To ye Morris Men, a paymente of six Groats for ye bells and ribbons, for entertaining ye dancers on ye gate to Soddingwelle, and for the ale they drinke at alle tymes"*

*The other said,*

*"I wish ye Morris dauncers would bogge off from outside my windowe as I cannot concentrate on writing ye medieval manuscript. Ye incessant jingling is verily getting upon my wicke, forsooth!"*

*It was the first of these which grabbed Bob's attention. Here was the Nottingham City council paying money to Morris Dancers. Could this ancient custom be revived? What was the 'gate to Soddingwelle', and why were there Morris Dancers entertaining people on it?*

*After years of research, he discovered that in 1109, it was decided to build a mother church at Southwell. All of the parishes of the diocese were 'invited' to send money. The amount sent by each parish was proportional to its size. The money was delivered by hand (in those days, telephone banking was in its infancy) and a tradition developed in which the people of each parish walked to Southwell at Whitsuntide to hand over the money and to check that the builders weren't slacking.*

*Enthused with this discovery – one of the earliest references to Morris Dancing – Bob set about producing the evidence he needed. He laboriously tea-stained his notes, baked them in the oven and burned the edges a bit to make them look old, then persuaded Dolphin Morris Men that they should revive the ancient custom. The Gate was revived in the early 1980's and has gone from strength to strength, providing a unique combination of Morris tour, procession, set piece shows and pageantry. That and twelve pubs.*

### **'South Well' or 'Suthell'**

*Every year we get this question. Is it pronounced 'South Well' or 'Suthell'? The answer is, 'Who cares'? Probably the same sort of people who argue about 'Rain Worth' or Rennarth', 'Ilkeston' or 'Illson' and so on. Life is too short. Just remember: it is the Gate to South Huwell, which ends at 'South Hall minster' in the town of 'Sotherl'*

*'Gate', of course is pronounced 'Gat tey', from the Norse, 'Gata' – no really it is. So next year, tell all your friends you're off on the Gat tey toe South Huwell. Trust me: I promise they'll be impressed.*

Mike Wilkinson – Dolphin Morris

*Dave Walters many years after said, 'I can't remember anybody starting at the Old Market Square, but I was busy chasing buses that year – they were late turning up at Sneinton. I'd gone straight to Sneinton, so as far as I was aware that's where everybody started, but I was pre-occupied with wondering how I was going to get 100 dancers in my Dyane [Citroen]. The buses turned up in the end.'*

*Ian Ambrose informed, 'I admit it, I defied Her Majesty! I think Chris and Bob did too, but there was not a formal send off or horse jokes, just a quiet stroll along the usual route to join the masses at Sneinton.'*



## **CHAPTER TWENTY THREE**

**2002  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HOSPICE  
BECOMES THE CHARITY OF CHOICE**

June 15th      The 22nd Gate.

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey MM, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Annis, Black Pig Border, Braybrooke, Bunnies From Hell, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Lincoln & Micklebarrow MM, Mortimer's Morris, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword, Sweetie Rapper, Yorkshire Coast Morris, Broadstone (rep)

Dancing inside the Minster was: Mortimer's Morris

Nicola Rushton of Mortimers says, *'Dancing in the Minster is probably the biggest privilege you'll get on the Gate. I've done it with Mortimer's. After you've got over the thrill of being asked you need to gather your nerves together and put on your best performance. The silence before you start is more deafening than the sound of the clogs on the flag-stones!'*

The chosen charity was: Nottinghamshire Hospice. Founded in 1980, they are a charity providing nursing, social and spiritual care for people with a terminal illness, and their families and carers.



Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says:

*'2002. The Green Man of Southwell. I was pleased with this. The image was originally very broad because this figure is carved beneath the bishop's seat in the minster choir (if memory serves me right). I therefore had to do a cylindrical distortion followed by a lens distortion to get the thing to look right. It took quite a lot of time to get the correct configuration'.*

Prior to the 2002 'Gate' Chris Gigg advertised the day in the Morris Ring Circular:

*'The Gate to Southwell Tour – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2002. A 'traditional' event revived by Dolphin. This year their charity is the Nottingham Hospice. [They raised several hundred pounds in 2001]. Details on [www.dolphin-morris.co.uk](http://www.dolphin-morris.co.uk) The Gate is open to part and full sides, men and women, young and old, and all traditions.*

*"In 1980 whilst researching into Morris Dancing in Nottingham, Bob Hine of Dolphin discovered that Morris Dancers were paid to take the Nottingham Borough's contribution to Southwell Minster. The original text refers to the 'ale which they drank at all times'. The tradition was revived with many sides dancing, processing and walking from Nottingham to Southwell, some 23 miles by the old roads. Sides attending are from all traditions including Cotswold, North-west, and Rapper sword, with female and mixed sides as well. (Last year 20 sides and 170 dancers made it!).*

Today although many do walk and process the whole way, the majority of sides spend time with dances and are bussed from pub to pub. The whole thing ends with a procession into Southwell followed by a short service. Then, to the Bramley Apple, where, local breweries in previous years, have donated, free beer. Buses take everyone back to Nottingham in the early evening.'

At Sneinton Community Centre Tom Huggon once more read out his yearly proclamation to the assembled Morris people and onlookers:

## SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Morris, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Annis, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Dolphin, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow Morris, Mortimer's Morris, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword, and Yorkshire Coast Dancing Groups.

GREETINGS.

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled for its customary Whitsuntide procession AND cherishing, as we do, the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND WE WELCOME you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through

AND WE ALSO wish to reassure you all of the high regard we have of you and your rightful eminence as a symbol of our heritage HERE are the results of our recent survey by the Sneinton Tourist Board

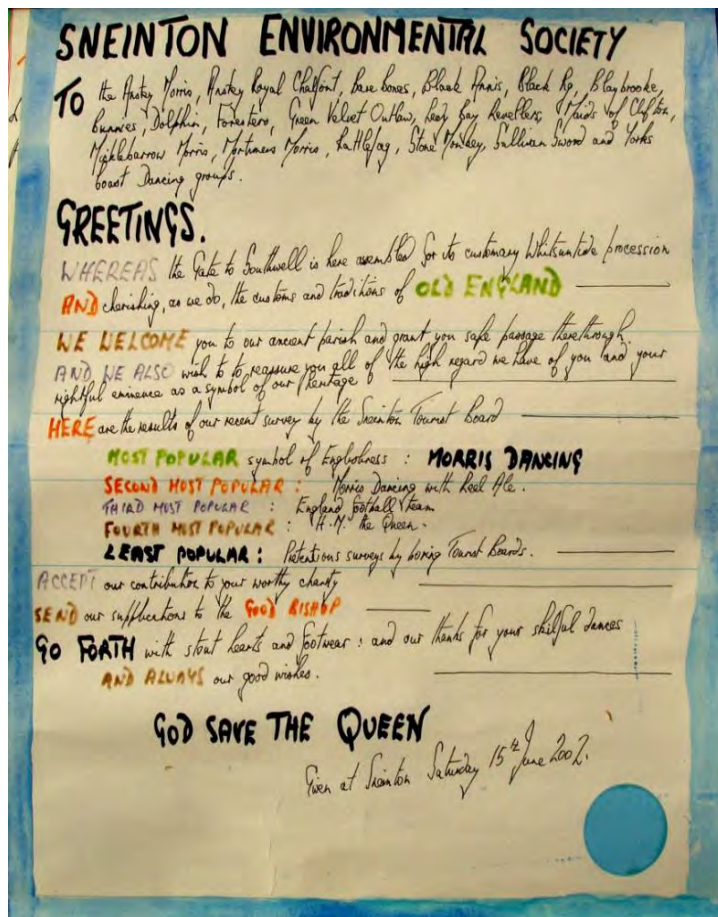
MOST POPULAR symbol of Englishness: MORRIS DANCING

SECOND MOST POPULAR: Morris Dancing with Real Ale

THIRD MOST POPULAR: English football team

FOURTH MOST POPULAR: H.M. the Queen

LEAST POPULAR: Pretentious surveys by boring



Tourist boards ACCEPT our contribution to your worthy charity SEND our supplications to the GOOD BISHOP GO FORTH with stout hearts and footwear, and our thanks for your skilful dances AND ALWAYS our good wishes

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given at Sneinton Saturday 15th June 2002

A newspaper article (publication unknown but probably Evening Post) had the heading,

### ***‘Morris Men lead Hospice collectors on a Merry Dance – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June’:***

*‘On Saturday 15 June hundreds of Morris men and women from all over the UK will again take part in the historic Gate to Southwell. This annual procession starts at 9am in the Old Market Square in the centre of Nottingham and makes its way to Southwell Minster – over 23 miles away. After being handed the “Southwell Pence” by the Lord Mayor, the dancers proceed to Sneinton for a rousing send off by the Sneinton Environmental Society. The next stop is at the Cross Keys pub at Burton Joyce where there are performances of traditional Morris dances. The colourful procession then wends its way roughly along the A612, stopping at pubs en route for dancing displays. On arrival at Southwell Minster at 5.15pm the Southwell Pence is presented to the Chapter Clerk during a short service.*

*This year the ‘Gate’, as it is fondly known, will benefit the Nottinghamshire Hospice. Collectors for the local charity will collect from people lining the route and at the dance display points. It is particularly apt that the Hospice is involved in the Gate to Southwell this year with its origins in raising monies for a building as we are currently raising funds for our new £180,000 extension through our Buy-a-Brick Appeal.*

*The ‘Gate’ makes a great English summer’s day out – wind rain or shine (one year even snow couldn’t stop proceedings). It’s a colourful spectacle and it makes the perfect antidote for those World Cup blues!*



Mike makes a premature grab for the money but the Mayor hangs on to it



The procession snakes its way to Sneinton



The inimitable Tom Huggon in full voice





The Hospice collectors group together at Sneinton

In a letter dated 28 June 2002 from the Hospice to Bob Hine, Julia Nutbrown writes,

*'On behalf of everybody at the Nottinghamshire Hospice I am writing to thank you and your fellow Morris men and women for supporting our work through the Gate to Southwell.*

*In total we raised £775 (including the £140 from the Old Coach House) and we are still awaiting the sponsorship monies raised by our walkers. Ultimately we hope to have raised over £1000 – a fantastic amount! In addition we had a brilliant day out and really enjoyed the atmosphere of the day.*

*We are delighted that you would like to support the Hospice in the future and look forward to working with you again'.*

In issue 20 – Autumn 2002 of Fernleigh Focus (the magazine of Fernleigh – The Nottingham Hospice) there was an article about the Gate which included three photos from the day. The write-up said,

*'We would like to say a big thank you to the Morris people, sponsored walkers and collectors who took part in the historic Gate to Southwell on Saturday 15th June and helped raise £1324. Thanks too to the Springhead Brewery for sponsoring the event and to all the pubs en route who made us welcome – including The Old Coach House at Easthorpe who kindly collected £140 for us.*

*Over 300 Morris men and women were seen off from the Old Market Square in the City by the Lord Mayor Des Wilson. After a day of amazing dance displays and refreshment stops at various pubs en route. We arrived at the Minster in time for Evensong (as it was the day of England's World Cup win against Denmark we did well to get anywhere!). And finally thanks to Bob Hine, Mike Nesbitt, Chris Gigg's and everybody at Dolphin Morris and all other Morris Groups for this wonderful day'.*



Black Pig musicians watched by Bare Bones and then Maids of Clifton circle



The Maids of Clifton never missed a year since their first Gate in 1990

Issue 19 – Summer 2002 of Fernleigh Focus carried a small article entitled:

***Morris Marathon Man***

*A big hand and a big thank you goes to Mike Nesbitt who took part in a Marathon Morris dance in Norwich in April. Mike danced the full 26 plus miles and raised £215 in sponsorship money for the Hospice. We must also thank Mike for all the hard work he and his fellow Morris Men have put into organising the Gate to Southwell from which the Hospice will benefit and for arranging a display team of Morris Men to dance at the Summer Fayre [7<sup>th</sup> July].*



Unusual view of Ladybay Revellers; not dancing



Gate organiser Chris Gigg takes a moment to show his skill with a jig and a pair of heavily starched handkerchiefs

**Random memory** from Linda Hewing  
*'A few of us stayed behind at the Magna Carta, Lowdham with several other footie fans to watch the world cup match - England 3-0 Denmark in 2002. Took us ages to catch everyone up and we were not very capable of dancing or playing (Martin Wildig especially!) when we eventually did.'*

The Newark Advertiser carried a photo and write up on 21st June 2002:



MORRIS dancers en route to Southwell Minster during Saturday's Gate To Southwell parade.

### ***'Past parade relived***

*Morris dancers performed and sang as they relived the ancient tradition of the Gate to Southwell on Saturday. About 100 people took part in the procession from Nottingham to Southwell, which took eight hours to cover 23 miles and included dancing outside 12 pubs.*

*The event dates to 1109 when the Archbishop of York wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire, asking them to contribute to the building of the Minster.*

*The offerings, called the Southwell Pence, were brought to the town by a procession every Whitsuntide.*

*The Pence were collected on the way to Southwell and received at the Minsters North Porch by the Chapter Clerk.*

*Each year at Whitsuntide, for more than five centuries the Lord Mayor of Nottingham and business leaders followed the tradition of riding to Southwell in their best robes to take the city's contribution to the upkeep of the Minster.*

*The procession has been recreated by Morris dancers since 1981 – Morris dancing has been associated with the procession since at least 1530.*

*On Saturday more than 20 groups, including the Micklebarrow Morris Men, Stone Monkey, Black Pig Border, Rattlejag Morris and the Green Velvet Outlaws, took part.*

*They were given 13s 4d in old coinage by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham Mr Des Wilson, which they presented after a short service at the Minster.*

*The dancers contributed £15.18, the modern equivalent of a traditional sum.*

*a collection along the route was taken for the Nottinghamshire Hospice, a charity that provides nursing, social and respite care for the terminally ill'.*



Previous and below: The procession arrives and musters for the North Porch handover



Above and next page: Mike finds the Nottingham money bag in time



The July 2002 Dolphin newsletter 'Spout' reported,

*'The Gate. I saw very little of the Gate because I got carried away with enthusiasm and rode the whole 20 miles on the unicycle, trying to keep ahead of the walkers so I could dictate my own pace, and meeting the dancers only as and when the opportunity arose. Of the four wheel sizes available to me, I had set out that morning on the least appropriate for big distances. I later calculated that the ride took approximately 40,337 pedal strokes.*

*Unusually, there was no impromptu (or, indeed, promptu) dancing in the Old Market Square. I think the confusion caused by the road-work's for the trams, and by a display caravan being set up in front of the Council House put people off. Bob made an excellent and amusing speech and I fluffed my part when collecting the money from the Lord Sherriffy Mayor person, reaching out to take the money before he had said his bit.*

*The procession took an alternative route out through Hockley (I preferred this to the traditional route - fewer crowds) and, after a short stop at Machine Mart to borrow a 14 mm socket to tighten my crank, we made it to Sneinton. Tom Huggon's speech was one of his best yet, which went some way to compensate for the tea being in disposable cups. (I've always found the proper cups and saucers such a civilized part of the Gate ritual.) Tom then led us to the top of the hill, where a small breakaway party decided to walk the next stage, and I tagged on, relying on strength in numbers to protect me from the nasty rough boys known to frequent the area.*

*I completely missed the Burton Joyce procession and dance spot, and I missed the procession into Lowdham. After lunch at the Ship, I got ahead of the procession and met people at the Black Horse, the Coach and Horses, the Wagon and Horses, and the Bromley Arms. Everyone seemed in good spirits, and the day seemed to be going well. After a long slog up the final hill, I was the first to arrive in Southwell and was rewarded by the sight of about a dozen sweaty lycra clad girls on mountain bikes arriving at the pub.*

*We processed to the Minster in orderly fashion, handed over the dosh then went in for the God spot. The Vicar kept it fairly light hearted and most people enjoyed the service. Mortimer's*

*danced and were absolutely fantastically amazingly good - and I'm not just saying that because they're gorgeous, especially that Zöe. A combination of swinging music, church acoustics, and enthusiastic but precise dancing made it a grand finale to the Gate.*



Phil Preen of Anstey Old Original Morris Men siphoned off a pint of Communion wine during the service – Cheers!

*Having been told by the Vicar to 'Go in God's peace', I left the Minster to be confronted by most of Black Pig beating up three of the local riff raff who had ill-advisedly shaken a Black Piglet by the throat. I doubt the mistake will be repeated.*

Chris Deuchar of Black Pig said, *'In another incident, Black Pig 'roughed up' some local youth on bicycles who were interfering with the procession in Southwell. They didn't do it again. I Can't remember which year.*

*And so to the pub where I bought a pint, because Bob had mislaid Dolphin's free beer-tickets. We did a few dances, including a Brighton Camp with one of the cyclists mentioned above, who was on her 'hen ride' - the cyclist's equivalent of a hen night. Luring her into the middle of the set with the promise that she was only required to choose the best looking Morris man, I received the gratifying response, 'That's easy, it's you.'*

*Such a beautiful English rose certainly deserved better than having Mr. Nesbitt shout, 'I've got me hand stuck!' after we had hoisted her into the air. Some people!'*





Above and below: Black Pig at the Bramley Apple with Chris Deuchar the badge maker looking mean and menacing with blue neckerchief and striped jacket.



Wendy Bostock, Yorkshire Coast Morris informed:

*'I don't think Yorkshire Coast have ever been to the Gate with a full side, but two of us came in 2002 and danced with other odds and ends in a scratch set. I think originally a few more of the side intended to come but for one reason or another didn't manage to make it'.*



Mike 'Fule' Wilkinson manages a jig at the Bramley Apple, even after all that unicycling

In the April 2002 copy of Spout, the DMM newsletter, a pre Gate meeting was reported by Mike as;

### ***“Gate Meeting***

*Muggins here forgot to go, but there was a meeting of the Gate Steering Committee at the Willow Tree on Tuesday 26th March. Chris Gigg tells me this year's Gate is going to break all records, with getting on for 150 dancers, supported by a fleet of buses. Nottingham City Council is working flat out to install a new light rail (tram) system in time. The Gate is on 15th June, so book early to avoid disappointment”*

Mortimer's Morris dancing in the Minster Photograph supplied by Chris Plant



And another one, from Yvonne Kaweska of Mortimer's



And Mortimer's again outside the Railway Inn



Zoe 'Mortimer' takes time out to teach the next generation



In 2002 Malcolm Smith of Rattlejag started to take photographs at the Gate -



And here are a few of them



**Random memory from Jayne Rose:** *Rattlejag Morris's first time at The Gate. What fun we had piling in and out of the little minibus we had borrowed for the day. What an introduction for those people who had not been to The Gate before!*



## **CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR**

### **2003 MAIDS OF CLIFTON DANCE IN THE MINSTER AFTER ONLY 14 GATES**

June 7th

The 23rd Gate

Sides; Dolphin, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Broadstone (rep) Foresters, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Lincoln and Micklebarrow Morris Men, New St George, Rattlejag, Sergeant Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword, Whip the Cat, Mortimer's

Dancing in the Minster was – Maids of Clifton

The chosen charity was; Nottinghamshire Hospice.

Chris Deuchar was the designer and made the Gate Badges and says,

*'2003. I was very pleased with this badge, which proved very popular and features the minster's wonderful west window. The photo for this was taken on the 2002 Gate - in anticipation.'*



Springhead Brewery sponsored the free pint at the Bramley Apple.

Issue 22 – Spring 2003 of Fernleigh Focus carried an advert for the Gate...

*'Gate to Southwell 7 June. Join hundreds of Morris men and women en route on their historic journey from the Market Square to Southwell Minster. Collect for us at pub and designated sites en route, witness amazing dance displays, and discover the Notts Countryside – what a great day out! Sponsored walkers (and possibly cyclists) also required.'*

Issue 23 – summer 2003 of Fernleigh Focus carried a report of the 2003 Gate...

*'We were honoured to be once again chosen to benefit from the historic Gate to Southwell this year. In total we collected £373 en route and raised over £700 from sponsored walkers. All along the route people gave us their support and good wishes for patients and families. One young boy from Southwell donated coins which he had been saving all year 'for the Morris men'.*

*Thanks to Sue and Dr Michael Grant – for walking all the way from the City Centre to Southwell Minster!*

*Elaine and Graham Wright and Julie Horsburgh for their intrepid sponsored walking from Lowdham to Southwell. Collectors; Judy Scarrott, Elaine Turner, Angela Fyfe, Clare Caldicott, and Sylvia Caines.*

*Our volunteer mini-bus driver William McMurrin, Chris Gigg, Bob Hine, Mike Nesbitt and all the other Morris sides for this fantastic day which helped us raise funds and awareness – including a mention on BBC Evening News!*

*Tom Huggon, and all the Sneinton Environmental Society for the great send-off and £25 donation’.*

The article included photos of Bob Hine at the head of the procession ‘Carrying the Southwell Pence’, and Mike Nesbitt, ‘Morris man Mike Nesbitt revives an ancient tradition by dancing through a field near Thurgarton’.



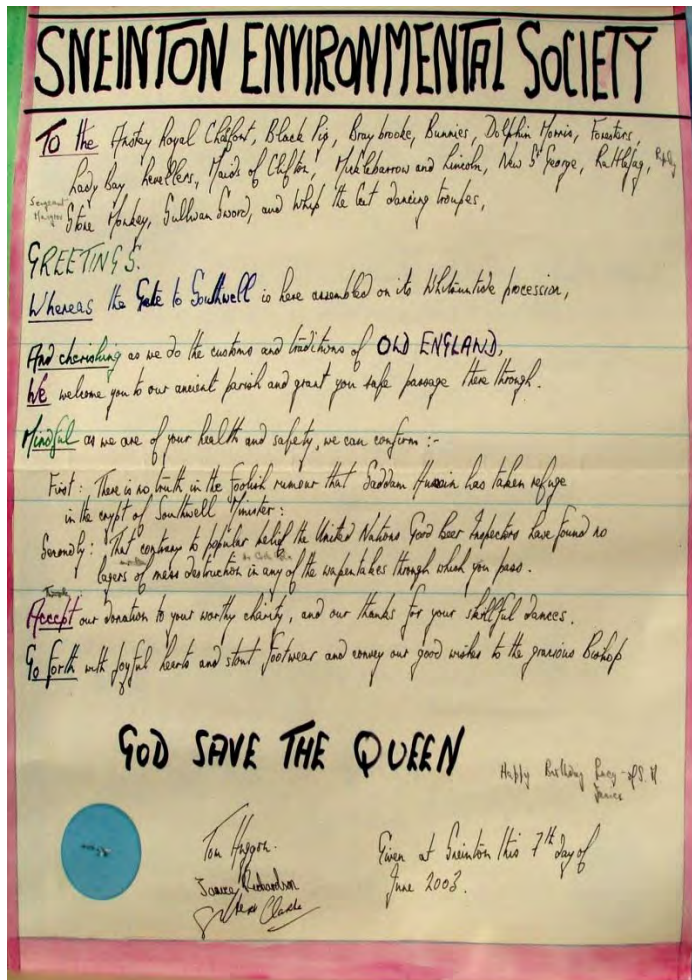




The 2003 Tom Huggon proclamation...



# SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY



TO the Anstey Royal Chalfont, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Dolphin Morris, Foresters, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow and Lincoln, New St George, Rattlejag, Sergeant Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword and Whip the Cat dancing troupes.

GREETINGS.

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide procession, AND CHERISHING as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND, WE welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through. MINDFUL as we are of your health and safety, we can confirm:

First: There is no truth in the foolish rumour that Saddam Hussein has taken refuge in the crypt of Southwell Minster:

Second: that contrary to popular belief, the United Nations Good Beer Inspectors have found no lagers of mass destruction in any of the wapentakes through which you pass.

ACCEPT our donation to your worthy charity, and our thanks for your skilful dances.

GO FORTH with joyful hearts and stout footwear and convey our good wishes to the gracious Bishop

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Tom Huggon Janice Richardson Gilbert Clarke  
Given at Sneinton this 7th day of June 2003

The July 2003 DMM newsletter written by Mike Wilkinson reported,

*'The Gate. I was ill, so I didn't come on the Gate as a dancer, Fule or unicyclist, but I joined the crowd around mid day and met up with the various sides intermittently as the day progressed. This report will therefore be a bit of a pick 'n' mix.*

*The weather was excellent - a pleasant surprise after it had rained heavily the day before. The various sides that were officially on the Gate were joined by Sgt. Musgrave's and Stone Monkey. Stone Monkey made up, their own route, and went on the piste off piste.*

*The Dolphins I saw were Bob Hine, Chris Gigg., Dave Walters, Ian Ambrose, and Wil Walker, all in kit; Steve Daniels and I were in civvies. Lawrence Platt was there and played for Dolphin to dance at one stop. I guess Chris Deuchar was somewhere, qua Black Pig as I saw little Joe (D). I'm told that Tom's speech at Sneinton was up to the usual standard, with many satirical references to recent events in The Gulf.*

*I wasn't up for dancing, but found myself playing for Lady Bay Revellers at one stop. I also ended up carrying their banner in the procession at Southwell.*

*It seemed like everyone had a good day. I know Wil was feeling no pain, and it was touch and go whether he would put the Kingston donation in the Chapter Clerk's bowl or offer to buy the Chapter Clerk a drink with it.*

*Thanks to Bob for discovering it, and Chris for organising it.'*



Bob Hine with Laurence Platt a founder member of DMM at Lowdham

Stone Monkey at Burton Joyce



Sullivan's Sword at the Coach and Horses, Thurgarton



The Maids of Clifton dancing in the Minster during the service



**Acknowledgements**

The organisers would like to acknowledge the generous assistance of the following people and organisations in staging *The Gate to Southwell*

Tom Huggon and the officers of the Sneinton Environment Society  
 Steve Reynolds and the Springhead Brewery  
 The Lord Mayor of Nottingham—Cllr. Brent Charlesworth  
 Roman, Debbie and the staff of the Bramley Apple  
 The Very Reverend David Leaning, Dean of Southwell, the Chapter  
 Clerk and the clergy of Southwell Minster  
 The Nottingham Constabulary

And also

Chris Deuchar for badge design & manufacture  
 Vic Holland for publicity in Southwell and Burton Joyce  
 Mike Nesbitt for leaflet printing

From 6.00 pm watch the Morris Dancing at ...

**THE BRAMLEY APPLE**

BAR RESTAURANT  
 51 CHURCH STREET, SOUTHWELL NOTTS  
 Telephone: 01636 813675

Restaurant  
 Bed & Breakfast  
 Traditional Springhead Ales



**Saturday 7th June 2003**

## Whip the Cat at Bleasby



Nicola Rushton of Whip the Cat recalls, 'I remember fabulous scones and cream-tea at the village hall every year – those women are wonders! We (Whip the Cat) danced there one year without our usual musician (lost in some pub!) and Wil from Dolphin Morris came to our rescue. He's been with us every since! What a find.

Wil Walker at the Minster, later in the day



New St George and others at the Minster







## **CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE**

**2004**  
**SGT MUSGRAVE'S DANCE IN**  
**MEMORY OF ANN HINE AT THE**  
**MINSTER**

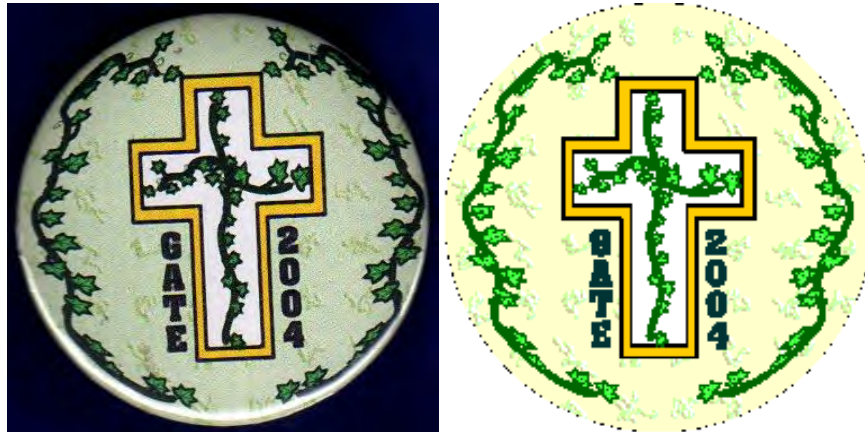
June 12th      The 24th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Buttercrosse Belles, Green Velvet Outlaws, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Lincoln & Micklebarrow MM, Minster Strays, Rattlejag, Risen Devils Rapper, Sgt Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword, Westrefelda, Whip the Cat.

Dancing inside the Minster was – Sgt Musgrave's in memory of Anne Hine, long time member of Sgt Musgrave's and wife of Bob Hine the founder of the Gate to Southwell revival. The team were out in some force and produced a dance that Ann would have been proud of. The dance was called Portland Hill, Anne's favourite dance.

The chosen charity was: Nottinghamshire Hospice.  
Programme printing was again done by Mike Nesbitt.  
Springhead Brewery again provided the free pint at the Bramley apple

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,  
*'2004. This year I was at a bit of a loss for a subject. There had been two sad deaths among the Gate regulars and I was in something of a quandary as to how to deal with this. I finally chose a representation of the cross which is always carried as part of the procession and a simple design of more than usual religious significance.'*



Left: The Mayor sets the procession off



Black Pig members try to mingle unseen and almost got away with it.



The Maids discuss Gate tactics before the start



The dancers crowd around Bob and the Mayor



Mike gets left behind after the procession members sneak away without him



The procession on the move - Ladybay Revellers at 09.10am leave the Market Square



Janet Mellors (right) a stalwart of many Gates helps carry the banner with Jenny Clarke a very pink Bunny from Hell



A traditional blocking the road dance



Another effective strategy for blocking a road



The para-military wing of the Morris marching to form a road block. Recently discovered by Chris Rose it has been named 'The Rattlejag Cordon'. It is particularly effective.





The 2004 proclamation composed and well presented as usual by Tom Huggon who was composed and well presented... O YEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ! Gilbert Clarke looking suave and elegant cuts a dash while waiting for his cue to ring the bell and let fly his loud 'Hip Hip's'

## SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Old Original, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Bare Bones, Black Pig, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Buttercrosse Belles, Dolphin Morris, Green Velvet Outlaws, Ladybay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Micklebarrow and Lincoln Morris, Minster Strays, Rattlejag, Risen Devils Rapper, Sergeant Musgraves, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword, Westrefelda and Whip the Cat Dancing teams;

## GREETINGS

Whereas the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide procession AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND

WE welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through AND HAVING carefully observed the transit of Venus across our Sun on Thursday last our astrologers have delivered the following accurate predictions:-

Elsie Mo will be returned tomorrow as duly elected to serve as our beero  
Member of Parliament  
England will beat France in Portugal  
You will all safely arrive at Southwell before then,  
provided of course, that you do not linger too long at Burton Joyce  
ACCEPT our donation to your worthy charity, and our grateful thanks for your skilful  
dancing  
GO FORTH with joyful hearts and stout footwear, and send our greetings to the good  
Bishop

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Gilbert Clarke

Given at Sneinton this

Tom Huggon

12th day of June 2004

Glenys Rogerson

A group of local peasants, quarry workers, land-boys and mill girls, collect. The term we call 'milling-about' originated from such gatherings and this is their annual re-enactment





Gilbert takes the members of Bones Morris to one side hoping they'll go bare soon!



Refreshments are taken at Sneinton Community Centre for 'milling' brings on a thirst



and Westrefelda Morris do a Bacca Pipes Dance outside while the peasants feast



The procession is escorted off the parish by Tom Huggon to make sure that they leave



At The Cross Keys, Burton Joyce  
Bare Bones, Green Velvet Outlaws, Anstey Royale Chalfont, Sullivan's Sword



Black Pig, Whip the Cat, Braybrooke, Buttercross Belles



Ladybay Revellers, Sgt Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Risen Devils



At Bleasby Village Hall entertainment from Risen Devil's, Whip the Cat and Maids of Clifton while the tea and scones are handed out



The Maids of Clifton girls caught stealing blooming branches from a local bush



Arriving at the Minster for the Southwell Pence ceremony - of the four Dolphin's one can fix your head, one your education, one you hedge, and one your TV; you decide?





Using your skill and judgement and these photographs – ‘Where’s Wally?’



Sgt Musgrave's dance 'Portland Hill' in the Minster in memory of Anne Hine



The July 2004 edition of the DMM newsletter 'Spout' reported,

***'The Gate to Southwell 12th June 2004***

*In 1109, they started to build a "mother church" at Southwell; by the 1500s, the people of the diocese had established a tradition of making a pilgrimage to the Minster each Whitsuntide to take money to the church. A rough note scrawled in Biro in the margin of the 1530 accounts of Nottingham City Council refers to a payment of money to "Ye Bloddy Morryss Dauncers" to pay for their "Bells, and other whiskies that they drinke at all tymes." In the late 1970s, an obscure local historian, Roberte de Hynne, discovered this reference, in his very own handwriting, and decided to recreate the ancient procession for fun and profit. But Roberte (or Bobbe, as he was known) wasn't daft, and he knew that he'd need more than himself to make a procession. So, by various devious means, he persuaded local Morris teams that a free pint of Springhead Bitter was adequate incentive to walk 20 miles in the searing heat, or pouring rain (delete as applicable). And now, in 2004, the Gate to Southwell (or, as it used to be called, "Ye Get To Soddingwelle") is as important a part of the calendar as that little wire loop that you use to hang it up.*

*As usual, we met outside the Council House. There was less spontaneous dancing than usual, and everybody milled about. Bob shook the Mayor's hand and made the traditional joke about horses. The Mayor read out a speech in which he explained that the Gate has been recreated every year since 1981, and that this is the 20th Gate. Amazing! Did you vote for him?*

*The procession down to Sneinton was slower than usual - this year's Gate was the biggest I can remember, with some 200 dancers, and the speed of any group is inversely proportional to the square of the number of people. At the Hermitage, good ol' Tom Huggon made his topical speech, and we all applauded, as we do. This stop at Sneinton, and Tom's speech, are highlights of the Gate for me. The Mayor always seems bemused; the Chapter Clerk always seems amiably tolerant; Tom Huggon just enjoys it for what it is, and takes an enthusiastic part in it. This is the difference between history and tradition.*

*Roy Dyson marshalled the dancers at Burton Joyce, making sure that everyone got a chance to perform. The best performances were by (alphabetically) Lady Bay Revellers, Risen Devils, Stone Monkey, and Whip the Cat. Note this: three rapper sides in the list... is rapper the new rock and roll?*

*The procession out of Burton was huge. I was policing the rear of the procession on my unicycle, doing my best to dissuade motorists from squeezing down the side when it wasn't safe. From where I was sitting, the banner was no more than a tiny scrap of cloth in the distance, visible only intermittently between the random handkerchief movements of two hundred slightly tipsy Morris dancers.*

*From Burton onwards, it all seemed a bit disjointed. The 200 Morris dancers gathered together in a small area caused a vortex in the space-time continuum, and Morris Time, which is purely relative, took over. Space became distorted, so that every bus had far too many people on it, but none of the right ones, and all the other buses had lots of empty seats. Three buses, two hundred dancers - you do the maths. It should be easy (66.67 dancers per bus) and yet at no time did we have exactly 66.67 dancers in any one of the buses, let alone all three. Still, you know what I always say about the Morris: never mind the schedule, times are only approximate, relax, it doesn't really matter. On the Gate, the important thing is for the dosh to arrive at the poor starving Bishop's door bang on time, so that he doesn't have to change the time of the service to commemorate our ancestors giving all that money to the Minster. Everything else is detail. All or most of the dancers got to Easthorpe on time, and again, there was a huge procession from The Pub with New Name to the Minster.*

*In the Minster, Sgt. Musgrave's Dance danced in memory of Anne (Hine). The drums and music swelled to fill the space and the dancers were precise, focused, and proud. This was genuine ritual dance, danced for a purpose and with passion. At times like this, it is so much more than a hobby.*

*After the service, most of the dancers retired to The Bramley Apple for a free pint of Springhead Bitter. Somehow, the free beer tickets seemed to be breeding. I still have about half a dozen left! Dolphin danced Valentine, and there was some general dancing outside the pub. The Gate's a funny old day, the same every year, but slightly different. There's so much going on that your day can vary depending on luck as well as planning - no one ever sees the whole event. It isn't just another bus tour. As an event, it is comparable in scale with the Rushcart or the Straw Bear, but we sometimes sort of take it for granted because it's "only" the Gate. So many people were involved in the planning and execution that it's dangerous to list names, for fear of omission, but thanks to you all, whoever you are.'*



**Brian Howes** (Late of Sullivan's Sword and roving reporter for 'The Best of British' magazine) wrote an article for The Best of British Magazine with the title...

**'Ancient customs Lord of the Dance'**.

*'Dating back to 1109, Nottinghamshire's annual 'Gate to Southwell' procession is a colourful annual tradition steeped in history.*

*The word 'gate', derived from the Scandinavian word 'Gata', means road and the first long walk along the road from Nottingham Old Market Square to Southwell Minster was initiated when the Archbishop of York, Thomas of York, wrote to each of the parishes of the county of Nottinghamshire requesting contributions towards the building of a new mother church at Southwell.*

*These offerings became known as the Southwell Pence and were duly delivered to the town by an annual procession led by the Town Mayor of Nottingham and officials of the Corporation along with the clergy of the participating parishes to coincide with the start of Southwell feast week. During the feast, visitors to the small market town were able to partake in various sports and pastimes including donkey and pony races and these races are thought to have been the beginnings of Southwell's famous all-weather racecourse.*

*Records dating back to 1530 show that entertainment along the route of the procession was provided by Morris Dancers who were duly rewarded for their efforts by payment from the Borough for the bells, coats and the copious quantities of ale they consumed along the way.*

*The custom died out in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century but the 'Gate to Southwell' procession was revived several years ago by members of Nottinghamshire Morris dancing sides and this year's event was the biggest ever with twenty teams of dancers of various styles taking part.*

*Following a speech from Lord Mayor of Nottingham Councillor John Hartshorne, the small bags of Southwell Pence were handed over to the Morris men who danced through the city and out to the suburb of Sneinton.*

*The procession then set off towards Southwell calling at a host of villages where locals were entertained outside their hostelrys. Finally arriving at Easthorpe on the outskirts of Southwell in early evening, crowds lined the streets of the town to welcome the procession as it made its way down Church Street and into the grounds of the Minster.*

*Here the bags of pence were presented to the Reverend David Leaning, Dean of Southwell. A short service was then held in the Minster along with a performance of Northwest Clog Morris by Sgt Musgrave's, after which all dancers joined together to sing Sydney Carter's famous hymn Lord of the Dance.*

*The event ended with an evening of music and dance outside the Bramley Apple public house where all participants were treated to a complimentary and very welcome pint of traditional ale courtesy of the Springhead Brewery.*

*Brian Howes'*

The traditional finish at the Bramley Apple pub, the free drink and a dance or two

Dolphin dance The Valentine while they're still fresh



Malcolm Smith of Rattlejag provided the following photographs



Above: Waiting to enter Bellar Gate

Left: On High Pavement



Pennyfoot Street



Newark Street



St. Stephen's Road



Along Sneinton Blvd



Waiting for the bus

Blocking the road in Southwell



Vicar puts hands up in horror as he sees the Pagan band assemble outside his church





**“What DO I look like in this?”**



## **CHAPTER TWENTY SIX**

**2005**

**WILLE, YOU NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR!**

June 11th      The 25th Gate

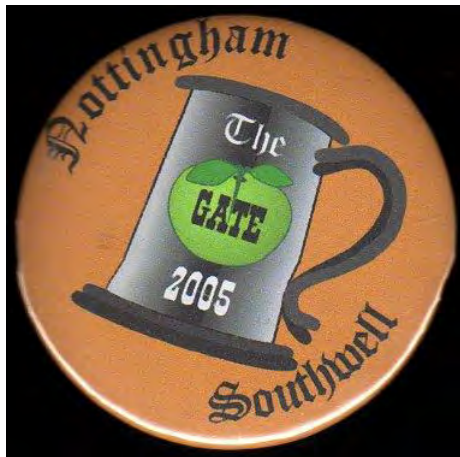
Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original, Bare Bones, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Greenwood Clog, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Mortimer's, Rattlejag, Shuttlers Clog, Stone Monkey, St Monday Rapper, Sullivan's Sword, Three Shires, Westrefelda, Whip the Cat.

Inside the Minster, Dolphin danced The Valentine from Fieldtown

The chosen charity was; Nottingham Hospice  
Mike Nesbitt printed the Gate programme.

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,

*'2005, after 2004's sombre mood, I felt a complete change was in order. Looking back at previous badges a blue/green theme predominated, so I decided on orangey-brown - which some have interpreted as 'tooled leather'? :-) A tankard also seemed appropriate to mirror the old quote from the 1530s about 'the ale - which was drunk at all times' during the procession. Lest this be seen as too irreligious I superimposed the Bramley Apple (i.e. the fruit - not just the pub) for which Southwell is famous. Therefore the sensitive may assume the tankard contains only apple juice :-) Curiously a cross has appeared in the intertwining of the apple leaf stalks. This does NOT appear in the original CAD drawing - it only manifests itself upon printing or processing. Spooky eh?'*



Issue 27, Spring 2005, of Nottinghamshire Hospice magazine Fernleigh Focus reported:

***'Morris Dancers Set the Pace***

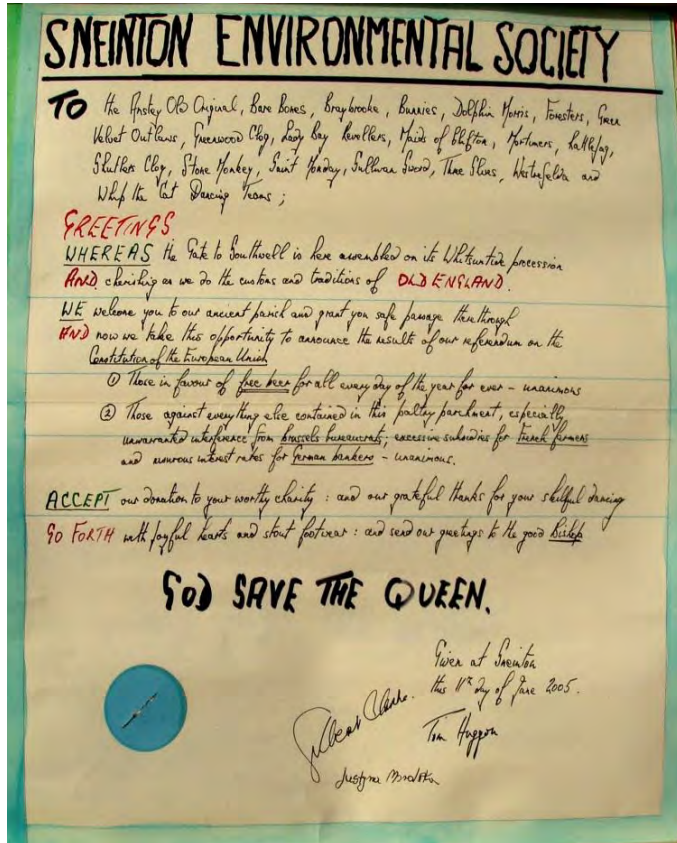
*Saturday 11th of June is the Gate to Southwell; this annual event is a fun filled day that involves lots of Morris Men meeting in Old Market Square at 8.45 am where the Mayor of Nottingham will hand over the "Southwell Pence" to start a procession to Southwell Minster. They stop off at several venues on the way for people to enjoy the Morris Dancing and their favourite tipple. Arriving at Southwell Minster for 5pm for the presentation to the Dean, a short service and dancing, at 6pm everyone adjourns to the Bramley Apple pub for some more dancing. We are looking for sponsored walkers, cyclists and people to join the hospice mini bus and collect for us at stops along the way. We would like to thank Chris Gigg and all the Morris Men that have chosen to support the Hospice for the last few years and for continuing to do so.'*



The 2005 proclamation produced and read by Tom Huggon was as follows...

## SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Old Original, Bare Bones, Braybrooke, Bunnies, Dolphin Morris, Foresters, Green Velvet Outlaws, Greenwood Clog, Lady Bay Revellers, Maids of Clifton, Mortimers, Rattlejag, Shuttlers Clog, Stone Monkey, Saint Monday, Sullivan's Sword, Three Shires, Westrefelda and Whip the Cat Dancing Teams;



## GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide procession

AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of OLD ENGLAND

WE welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through

AND now we take this opportunity to announce the result of our referendum on the Constitution of the European Union

Those in favour of free beer for all, every day of the year for ever - unanimous

Those against everything else contained in this paltry parchment,

especially unwarranted interference from Brussels bureaucrats, excessive subsidies for French farmers and usurious interest rates for German bankers - unanimous

ACCEPT our donation to your worthy charity, and our grateful thanks for your skilful dancing GO FORTH with joyful hearts and stout footwear, and send our greetings to the good Bishop

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Gilbert Clarke

Given at Sneinton

Tom Huggon

this 11th day of June 2005

Justyna Mirolska



Tom Huggon raises his hat in three cheers

The Newark Advertiser reported on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2005, the events of the previous weekend at Southwell Minster. Southwell Festival was on, starting on the Friday night before the Gate to Southwell. Apparently someone called Aled Jones was singing with the Minster choir, and Southwell Choral Society, but of course the main event was the ‘Gate’ and the paper reported in the ‘Southwell Festival Round Up’, that:

***‘It’s all there: music, dance, food, art, history...even Robin Hood***

*‘The following morning, 20 Morris sides danced from Nottingham’s Old Market Square to Southwell Minster to mark a tradition dating back to 1109.*

*They included 15 members of the Retford-based Rattlejag Morris, who danced the Thurgarton to Bleasby stretch of the route and collected money from spectators for the Nottinghamshire Hospice. They took part in a short teatime service at Southwell Minster, led by the Bishop of Southwell the Right Rev George Cassidy, and Dolphin Morris of Nottingham, who resurrected the tradition in 1981, performed a dance. There was more dancing later, at the Bramley Apple.*

*One of the festival organisers, Mr Nick Thorpe, said it had achieved its objective by bringing the community together’.*

There was a photograph of Rattlejag Morris dancing at the Waggon and Horses, Bleasby (and also of Aled Jones talking to the Minster Choir). It is believed that Mr Jones did not stay in Southwell to watch the arrival of the Gate procession.



Above and Below: The Mayor sets the procession off in the traditional manner





And they're off with the Police 'Fast Action Response Team' in front  
But with our own in-house one wheel back-up system at the ready



Ladybay Revellers hold the procession up on Middle Pavement





Above: Rattlejag

Below: Green Velvet Outlaws





Tom Huggon with one tooth out for the photo and all of them for the proclamation!



Foresters look on in awe as Tom proclaims



The procession leaves Sneinton under escort by Tom Huggon







And onward to the Cross Keys at Lowdham



Below and below etc: The sides performing at the Cross Keys



Three Shires clog



Mortimer's



Whip the Cat



Stone Monkey



Sullivan's Sword



Forester's



Green Velvet Outlaws



Braybrooke



Rattlejag



St Monday Rapper



Greenwood Clog



Maids of Clifton



Anstey Old Original



Shuttlers Clog



Ladybay Revellers

The show had to end and the procession move on...towards Lowdham







At Lowdham, Magna Charta, Some sides danced outside others chose to visit the wayside Inn for refreshment...and rest their 'orses (I think that's what they said!)



Above: Green Velvet Outlaws

Below: Maids of Clifton





One just felt the need to stick her finger in her ear and sing a folk song

...or wear a silly hat and eat cake



Or...



and...



And then some just felt the need to look cool...



Eventually the procession reached the end of the road and the inevitable ceremony...



With the inspirational words of Bob Hine and the Clergy...



Rare picture of Stone Monkey at the Minster – was the pub shut?



The Dolphin Morris Men performed ‘The Valentine’ in the Minster





And then everyone went to the Bramley Apple for a free drink and a dance







Stone Monkey rotated like dervishes while Dolphin chased chickens below



Then the ladies showed what they could do and Stone Monkey!  
Mortimer's, Three Shires Clog, Shuttler's Clog, Whip the Cat, Stone Monkey



The autumn issue (No 28) of Fernleigh Focus reported,  
*'The Gate to Southwell event was held on 11th June. Much to everyone's relief what started out as a cloudy drizzly day soon became a wonderful summers ay that was truly memorable for everyone who took part. Due to the generosity of nearly 200 Morris dancers who entertained everyone we raised £1400. A big thank you to Chris Gigg, the Morris dancers, the sponsored walkers and a special thank you to everyone involved in the event'.*  
There was a photo of walkers and dancers at the start of the Gate.

The autumn issue also reported; that The Maids of Clifton had made a donation of £50 to the Hospice from their funds; it was accompanied by a photo of the Maids performing a garland dance.

Maureen Osborne (of Nottingham Hospice) to Chris Gig;  
*Hi Chris,*

*Yes I agree a super day was had by everyone involved, it was great to meet Michelle [Chris' daughter], she is a wonderful girl you must be proud. Kevin (great guy) and both have offered further support to the Hospice---which is so generous. The feedback from everyone at the Hospice has been super as everyone that is walkers, collectors and drivers agreed it was a jolly good day. We have made £598.21 from the collection bucket's, which is super; we still have the sponsorship money to come in from the walkers, which takes time.*

*I will be writing to Michelle, Kevin and yourself as soon as I have the grand total. Once again thank you and all of the Morris dancers for a super day, and their support of our wonderful charity is much appreciated. I look forward to next year as lots of people from the Hospice will be joining us as the Summer Ball is on a different day.'*

Ladybay Revellers cycled the route in 2005 and Squire Barry Roland says:

*'Yes I think we are the only ones to cycle but last time in 2005 cycling there and back and the odd pint just about finished us off!'*



A tale of time-travelling blue street-furniture or a drug induced altered state of reality – you decide. This piece appeared in the July 2005 copy of Spout, the newsletter of the DMM. The writer, one ‘Wille Walkere’ has need to see a Doctor, and with haste. His tale, though entertaining, hides a troubled grasp on reality and he already may be beyond our help. Read and feel pity...

### ***The Fiddler’s Tale - The Gate, Unhinged***

*‘Forsoothe ‘twas agayne the annual pilgrimage to the Mynstre at Southwell and I was called upponne to accompanye the merrie procession of the Moryce dauncers on their way to give the pennance from the borough of Nottingham. When before me on the wayside of the Derby Roade stood a large blue wooden cabinet, with its door ajar. And being of curious mynde I peer’d inside whereupon I had enter’d a great chamber and saw within it a glowing altar rising up and down. A thin man dressed in black was standing over it, muttering in a codde northern accent something about a two thousande and fyve, and a young blonde damsel appear’d and stood gaping in wonderment, addressing him as ‘Doctor’. Suddenly the whole chamber shook and a loud screeching sounde rang out and forsooth it fylled me with dread, and I made my escape.*

*But outside, I could not believe mine eyes! The market place had gone and in its place a town square paved with stone, surrounded by rows of tall houses. The furthest one was especially grand with large stone columns and beneath was gather’d a throng of...and behold! It was indeed the Mauriss dancre! And then did appear on the steps the Lord Mayor – a new one this year – who spoke to the crowd in a strange dialect. He spoke of the tradition that was 500 years old – I could have sworne it was only the 25th this yeare – and he gave the leader his pence to be conveyed to the minster and wished us God speed!*

*As I joined the crowde, I was approached by a groupe of fair maidens strangely cloth’d in black and the fur of the leopard, carrying swords who bad me to play for them my fyddle. This I didde with a glad heart for the tunes they were familiar to mine ears.*

*To the beat of the drum we processed through the streets as we had always done, though there were few to cheer us along our way. The roads were full of shiny carriages made of metal and glass, growling and moving of their own accord. If not for the men in shining yellow coats, I feared we would be struck down by these fearsome machines! And how I laugh’d to see the fule who propelled himself sat upon a stick standing on one wheel! One wonders at how he may be equypp’d to steer his chosen transporte!*

*And then we gathered at the village of Sneinton where the Mayor addressed the assembled – this time in words I could at least understand – but was not enlightened about what was the meaning in the French saying “Non” in Europe. But then with apparent confusion the dauncers dispersed and some processed up the hill, and others mounted conveyances much as the fule, but with two wheels, and still others boarded giant roaring carriages to carry them up the hill. And then the marchers all alighted the giant coaches, which lurched at frightening speed only to stoppe at Burton Joyce for us to disembark and process agayne unto the village and gather once more at the Cross Keys public house, so transformed it was beyond recognition!*

*But yet within was served fresh ale to the assembled dauncers and players, drawn through taps operated by long wooden levers! Outside, together we performed a joyous massed dance for the*

*people who hid under large coloured domes they held on poles it seemed for to protect them from the drizzle. And other men and women, carrying buckets, waved them under the noses of the people who did dig deep unto their pockets and brought forth gold and silver coins aplenty! And then we gathered together and processed out of the village only to be herded once more onto the giant carriages, to be taken as if by flying through the lush countryside to another hostelry, and another, and then another...and another, at each one downing ale, playing, dancing and collecting money. A far cry from last year when our merry band of men processed all the way on footte!*

*And soon we reached Southwell itself, and processed again on foot to the Minster, resplendent and complete – amazing as it was only half-built last yere! Nonetheless, the minister welcomed us warmly, with a face of glee as he received the pence from all the parishes so represented. Inside was awesome and magical as the sounde of music and song echoed high in the vaulted ceiling and the light shone through the stained glass windowes. I joined the Morrissse Musicians of the Forest to play for the throng while the Men of Dolphyn danced the most gracious Valentyne had eyre I seen!*

*And as we went out into the evening, I was beseeched to join my fellowes for further dauncing and merriment at Ye Olde Bramley Apple Inn, and one of the fine Men of Dolphyne did presse into my palm, not one, but two small pieces of paper with which to exchange for 'Free Beer'! Well, I can tell you, it felt like all my Gates had come at once!*

*Well, time went by, we danced and played, and as the sun went down, we boarded the giant coaches once again to carry us back to Nottingham, downstairs rocking to the sweet bucolicke melodeon of Joe the Dolphinne and upstairs straining to the bawdy ballades of Tom of Sullivan. As I stumbled off the giant coach at the Market Square, I noticed that strange blue cupboard still standing there. It felt like the earth was moving and as I did lean against it the door pushed open, and I fell inside. Suddenly the world was spinning and I could here that scraping sound again, over and over...*

*When I awoke all was still and the chamber was empty. I arose and opened the door to find I was back at the old market place just as it always was, and all had gone home. So I picked up my fiddle and trudged my way up the dusty path to the Derby Roade. “You’ll never believe what happened on the pilgrimage this year, my deare,” I said unto the wyffe. “Transported was I unto a future millennium, conveyed at lightning speed from inn to inn in giant shining horseless carriages...OUCH!” exclaimed I as the rolling pynne strucketh my head. “Stoppe your nonsense,” sayeth she. “Time travel, my arse! How many times have I told you to stay off the mead?”*

Wille Walkere



## **CHAPTER TWENTY SEVEN**

### **2006 THE 'SAT NAV' INFLUENCES GATE BADGE**

June 10th      The 26th Gate

Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original, Green Velvet Outlaws, Maids of Clifton, Powderkeg, Sullivan's Sword, Black Pig, Black Annis, Whip the Cat, Rattlejag, Ladybay Revellers, Broadstone (rep), Stone Monkey

Dancing inside the Minster was – Whip the Cat Rapper and Rattlejag Morris

The chosen charity was: Nottinghamshire Hospice

In 2006 there was no programme produced.

Chris Deuchar who designed the Gate badge says:

*'2006. This was the year that everybody who wanted to be anybody went out and bought a Sat Nav system for their car. The badge therefore showed the minster in a segment of the first Ordnance Survey map - to redress the balance!'*



### **Spring 2006 Morris Federation Newsletter**

Doing the Gate with Style?

The 'Gate to Southwell', was an annual pilgrimage from Nottingham to Southwell which dates back for hundreds of years. It was revived by Dolphin Morris Men in 1981 and has been done every year since!

The 'Gate' today consists of approximately two hundred dancers retracing the route of the annual pilgrimage from Nottingham to Southwell. These days we do it in one day with the assistance of buses. We carry the 'Southwell Pence', the Nottingham Parish's contributions to the mother church, and virtually all of the 23 miles is walked either in total or in relays, in just 8 hours. We stop at pubs to dance and collect. Last year we collected £1400 for the Nottingham Hospice. When we arrive in Southwell, we process to the minster, deliver the 'Southwell Pence' to the church and have a short ceremony and dance inside. This is followed by a drink at the famous "Bramley Apple" pub.

In all, a tiring but happy, and satisfying day. More details are on the Dolphin Web site [www.dolphinmorris.co.uk](http://www.dolphinmorris.co.uk), those interested in taking part can email us on [gate@dolphinmorris.co.uk](mailto:gate@dolphinmorris.co.uk) for more details. The date for this years Gate is Saturday 10th June 2006  
Chris Gigg Dolphin MM



Gate poster for 2006.

In 2006 the Mayor (reading from his prepared notes) sent the procession on its way rejoicing. Like many Mayors, before, and after, his instant wit and ready repartee have unfortunately not lived in the memory of well... anyone.

Legend has it that one day a Mayor will come who can lift our spirits by the power of his rhetoric alone. Sadly it appears to be only a legend.

Circumstances in the Old Market Square caused the procession to be sent off from the telephone kiosk on the pedestrian area to the side of the council House.

It all adds to the magic that is the Gate to Southwell.

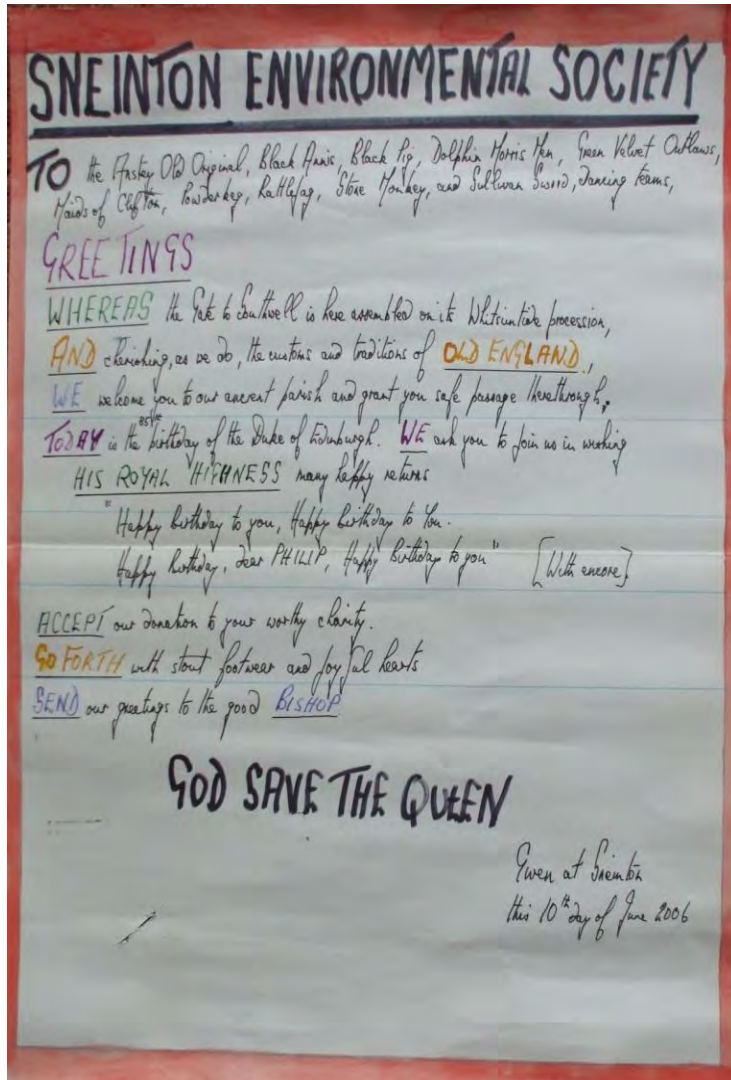
Bob Hine seen here, feeling the magic!





The 2006 proclamation: 'Oyez, Oyez, Oyez,

## THE SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY



To The Anstey Old Original, Black Annis, Black Pig, Dolphin Morris, Green Velvet Outlaws, Maids of Clifton, Powderkeg, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey, Sullivan's Sword dancing teams, Greetings.

Whereas the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide Procession and cherishing as we do [crowd join in with 'as we do' with practiced gusto]

The customs and traditions of Old England

We welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through.

Today is the 85th birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh

We ask you to join us in wishing His Royal Highness Many happy returns.

[they present a large banner on which the words of the song are written out - all sing 'Happy Birthday to You' heartily]

Well done but I didn't hear that did you? [said Tom]

I think we should hear it all again, let them hear us at Burton Joyce

[all repeat the song but even louder]

Accept our donation to your worthy charity. Go forth with stout footwear and joyful hearts.

Send our greetings to the good Bishop.


God Save the Queen

Hip, Hip Hooray [by Gilbert Clarke and x3]



Issue 30 of Fernleigh Focus dated Autumn 2006 had a photo of the Hospice walkers and a short write-up,

*'This year's Gate to Southwell was a great fun filled day as usual. We would again like to thank all the Morris Dancers, who performed in fabulous costumes on a very hot summer's day, all the sponsored walkers and all the collectors for their time and effort which was so well spent in raising a wonderful £1013.69'.*



'We cannot add days to their lives but with your help we can add life to their days.'

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
**HOSPICE**  
www.nottshospice.org

FREE NEWSLETTER • Issue 30 • Autumn 2006

**FERNLEIGH FOCUS**



## Gate to Southwell 2006

This year's Gate to Southwell was a great fun filled day as usual. We would again like to thank all the Morris Dancers, who performed in fabulous costumes on a very hot summer's day, all the sponsored walkers and all the collectors for their time and effort which was so well spent in raising a wonderful £1013.69.

It was a lovely warm day as the shadows, evident on the photographs, show.





The July 2006 DMM newsletter ‘Spout’, written by Mike Wilkinson, reported,

### *‘The Gate*

*My unicycle broke down before the procession even started. The market square was closed for pointless costly excavations, and we had the ceremony and the traditional mayor/horse joke on the paved area to one side, near a phone box. It was a long hot day, and I had bad beer at the first three pubs. I had a church service to look forwards too, and there were massive queues in the Bramley Apple. On paper, not my ideal day out, but somehow it worked, as it always does.*

*Tom Huggon did his usual rousing speech, and then led the assembled dancers in a round of “Happy Birthday Dear Philip” for the Duke of Edinburgh’s 85th birthday. The food was good at the Magna Charta (dear diary, I got to sit down and eat on the Gate!). The Dean and Chapter was retiring and was full of the joys of spring. Chris presented him with a framed picture and made an excellent speech.*

*Whip The Cat blew everyone away with their enthusiasm and their borrowed fiddler. Rattlejag (named after John Prescott’s’ older car, I’m told) amazed us with their sinister rattling nail clippings, and false teeth on a string. All the usual fun of the Gate, really. Full marks to Chris and his team, but next year, turn down the thermostat a notch or two. Each degree saves £££ and helps to prevent global warming.’*



The August 2006 issue of the magazine Nottinghamshire Today (The 500th edition) contained a six page article about the Gate to Southwell. It was written by Chris Gigg and illustrated with photos by professional photographer Geoff Buxton. Chris Gigg prepared a document from which the magazine took much of the content for the article:

*‘One of Nottingham’s colourful and oldest traditions took place in the streets, villages and pubs of the County. The ‘Gate to Southwell is an ancient Whitsuntide procession dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, and still enacted today, some 900 years later.*

#### *Some history*

*The Gate is a traditional Nottinghamshire event that dates back to the year 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas of York, wrote to each of the parishes in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new mother church at Southwell. This*

*resolved a dispute as to whether the Notts. offerings should be given to York or Southwell. The offerings, the Southwell Pence, were brought to St. Mary's Southwell by an annual procession at Whitsuntide.*

*The procession began at Nottingham and was headed by the Mayor and Corporation in their best ceremonial robes. Behind the Mayor came clergy who could use the occasion to get up to date with church business and ordinary people combining a pilgrimage with a holiday excursion. According to one author Southwell was very gay on Whit Monday with the representatives of two hundred and five odd parishes riding into the little town. Whit week 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 feast has turned into Southwell races which are held at Rolleston.*

*We do not know when the procession was ended but it seems likely to have been in the 16th Century. In the late 18th Century, the annual church meeting held in conjunction with the procession, was abolished. Even after the procession had long ceased, the Chapter Clerk kept up the custom of attending in the North porch of the Minster, where his predecessors had collected the Southwell Pence.*

*The Gate to Southwell is of particular interest to traditional dance enthusiasts because Nottingham Borough records show that in 1530 entertainment on the procession was provided by a team of Morris Dancers. They were rewarded for their efforts by payment from the Borough for the bells, coats and the ale that the dancers drank at all times.*

*Bob Hine of Dolphin Morris Men was researching the origins of Morris dancing in the Nottingham area. He discovered in the Nottingham Borough records the details of the 'Gate to Southwell', and in 1981, revived the traditional procession, which has survived until this year, when the 26<sup>th</sup> Gate took place on 10<sup>th</sup> June.*

*The event, in 1981, was attended by many local Morris dancing sides. Most walked all the way to Southwell, with long periods of dancing along the way. Nowadays, the trip is interspersed with bus trips between pubs.*

*GATE is thought to be derived from the Scandinavian word Gata meaning road.*

### ***The ceremony today***

*The Gate to Southwell in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is based on research from the 1980s, and has evolved to meet the modern travel and timing requirements. The event is organised by Dolphin Morris Men and has developed in to this format.*

*Today, the dancers assemble in Nottingham's Market Square. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham greets the dancers, walkers, musicians and charity workers. The board with the 'Southwell Pence' has been brought to the Market Square, and the Lord Mayor formally presents the*

*contribution from Nottingham to the assembled crowd to take to Southwell on his behalf. (The Lord Mayor this year is Councillor Des Wilson).*

### ***The Southwell Pence***

*The records show that Nottingham gave 13 Shillings and 4 Pence (about 66p), whereas lowly Stanton gave only 5d (about 2p). The whole lot came to 15 Pounds, 18 Shillings, 7 Pence and one Farthing. The bags contain real money, including silver three-penny bits and sixpences, with some coins as old as 1737).*

*By tradition, the Lord Mayor is invited to accompany the procession on horseback along with his retinue and the clergy, he always declines. Also, he is asked if he would like to pay for the dancer's ale on the trip, again this request is turned down.*

*In years gone by, the dancers themselves have collected money along the way for various charities. In recent years, with strict requirements on street collecting, Dolphin Morris Men have chosen a worthy cause so that they can benefit from the days events. Since 2003 the chosen Charity has been the Nottingham Hospice.*

*After the presentation of the Southwell Pence by The Lord Mayor, the procession starts by winding through the streets of Nottingham. It is preceded by a cross, to represent the Association with the church, a banner depicting the ancient tradition, and the board carrying the Southwell Pence.*



*First stop is at the Sneinton Hermitage Centre for a well earned cup of tea. The procession is met by the Sneinton Environmental Society, and in particular, by Tom Huggon. Tom prepares a scroll which welcomes every dancing team, makes some topical jokes, and then reinforces the traditions of the dancing and customs of old England. A cheque from the Society is presented to the Hospice, this year accepted by Beverly Brooks MBE who is their newly appointed chief executive.*

*The procession is joined by members of the Sneinton Environmental Society, who walk with the dancers etc to the parish boundary. Buses then take the dancers and musicians to Burton Joyce for a massed display, thereafter to various pubs along the route. A stop is made in Bleasby for tea and scones which is generously provided by the villages WI.*

*At around 4.50 the final procession forms up in the Eastcote area of Southwell. The procession winds down the narrow streets and into Southwell Minster's grounds where it assembles at the North Porch.*

*Here the procession is welcomed by the Dean of Chapter, the Very reverend David Leaning, (David retires this year after some 14 years in the post), and the Canon Pastor Nigel Coates, and the Precentor Canon Jacqui Jones.*

*The Southwell pence is then presented to The Dean and Clergy , with each dancing side represented, as well as the organisers and the charity. When all the bags of money have been*



*handed over, the dancers and walkers are welcomed into the Minster for a short service. Many Southwell parishioners attend the service before they go to Evensong.*

*The service starts with a dance performed by a side chosen each year. This year the team to dance in the Minster, was Rattlejag, based in the locality, who dance their own collected dances from the Newark and surrounding area.*

*A hymn then follows, this year it was appropriately 'The Lord of the Dance, followed by a short blessing. The service concludes with another Hymn, this year it was 'My faith it is an oaken staff' which has a tune that the Morris and the Church both share.*

*Following the service, all concerned rush to the Bramley Apple which for 26 years has provided liquid refreshment at the end of this tiring day. For many years the Famous Springhead Brewery of Newark has generously sponsored the event by giving pints of their real ale to thirsty dancers and walkers alike.*

*Figures are not in from the Hospice as to the collection in 2006, but in previous years, they have raised over £1500, and had a great day out as well.*

### ***Morris Dancing – the Origins***

*Although the origins of the English Morris dances are obscure, they are probably derived from an ancient fertility ritual performed in the Spring to make crops grow.*

*Traditional Morris dancing survived best in the Cotswolds where it was recorded by the folk song and music collector Cecil Sharp about 100 years ago. These dances generally involve a team of six dancers performing with sticks or handkerchiefs and are usually referred to as COTSWOLD MORRIS DANCING. Traditional accompaniment was the pipe and tabor, however, today, the concertina, melodeon, accordion and fiddle are more common.*

*In the Northwest of England the wearing of clogs gave a different style to the Morris dances. Another characteristic style evolved in the Northeast with the use of long swords or rapiers (rappers), and is known today as RAPPER SWORD.*

*The Morris sides who attend the Gate to Southwell each year are all revival sides, ie, they were formed in the last few decades. Dolphin Morris Men formed in 1968 as an affiliated offshoot of the now defunct Nottingham Traditional Music Club or NTMC as it was known.*

*For more information on the origins see <http://www.themorrisring.org/More/index.html>*

*The sides who took part this year were :-*

*Dolphin Morris Men from Nottingham*

*Anstey MM from Loughborough*

*Black Pig Border from Derbyshire*

*Black Annis from Leicester*

*Green Velvet Outlaws from Sherwood, Nottingham*

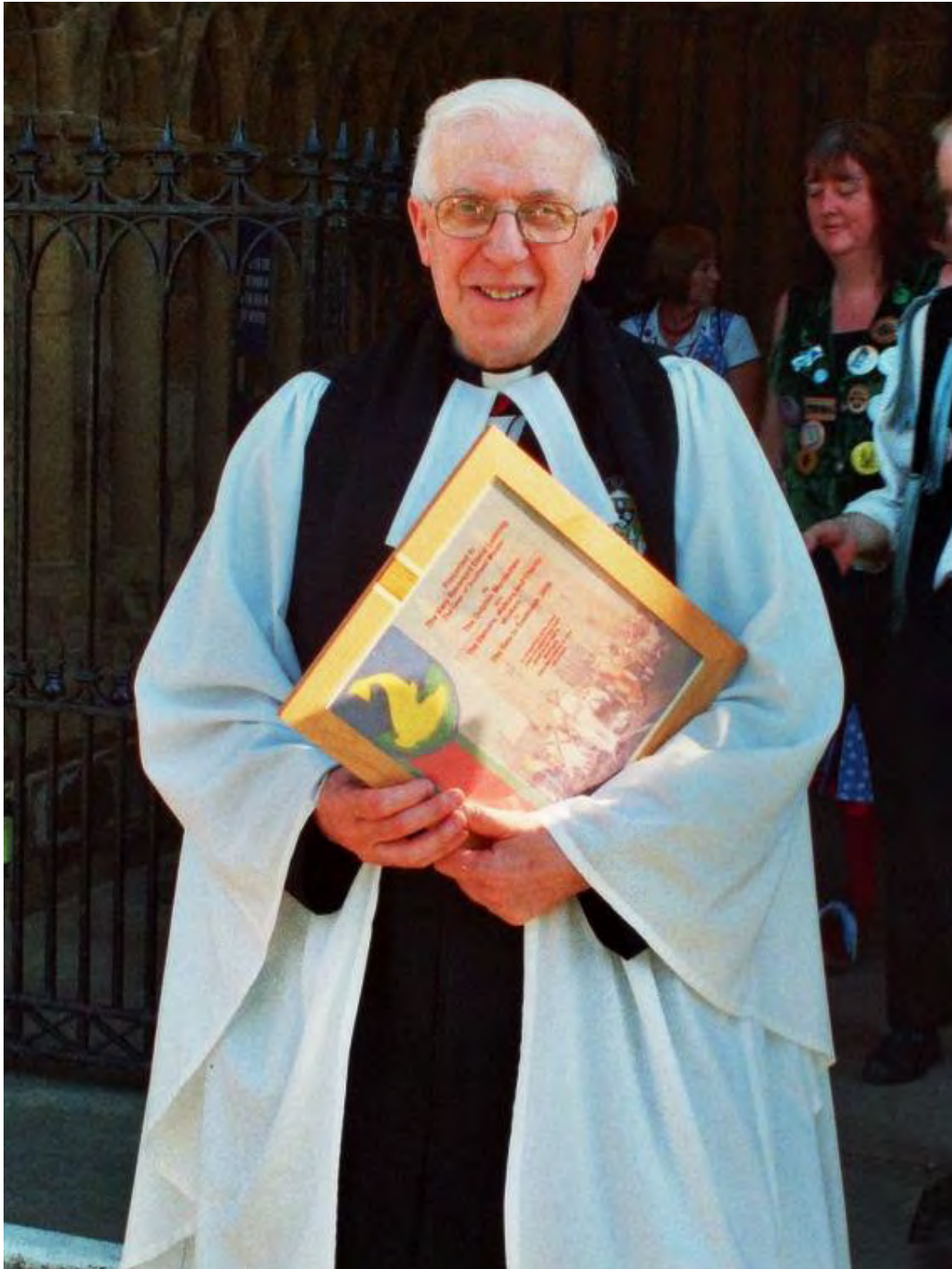
*Maids of Clifton from the Nottingham area*

*Powderkeg from the Peak District*

*Rattlejag from the Newark and Southwell area*

*Stone Monkey from Derbyshire  
Sullivan Sword from Nottingham  
finally,  
Whip the Cat from Notts and Derbys.'*

2006 was the last time that **The Very Reverend David Leaning, the Dean of Southwell Minster** would preside over the Gate ceremony at the Minster as he was retiring.



In a small recognition of his support for the Gate, Chris Gigg organised a presentation of a framed thank you certificate. This was decided upon and designed in some secrecy as the archivist and keeper of the DMM scrapbook (me) was not aware of any of it until at the Minster Chris began his short speech and presentation.

*'Presented to  
The Very Reverend David Leaning,  
The Dean of Southwell Minster  
by  
The Dolphin Morrismen  
and  
The Dancers, walkers and Charity workers  
On the Gate to Southwell 2006.  
In recognition of the  
many years of support  
you have given to  
the Gate to Southwell.  
Very best wishes on your  
Retirement.*

More photos from 2006

Dr. Wil Walker, a Dolphin Morris Man who in his spare time fiddles with the Whip the Cat girls, had to be carried onto the field of play; he being too drunk to stand





The Powderkegs Border Morris

Finding shade at Bleasby



All sing 'Happy birthday to Prince Philip'



So what did you carry on the Gate?



The ancient symbolism is still evident  
Phil Heaton with the lock and Ian Ambrose with the Cross



A hug and a squeeze from a fule



DOT MURPHIE visits the Gate and presented the Retford pence



**Moira Ruff says** – ‘We have had an ex-member present the Retford "pence", Dot Murphie - she lives in Southwell and is now in her nineties - she learnt clog dancing in Liverpool in her childhood from one of the famed Lancashire Lads (with whom Charlie Chaplin started his career) and did do a little professionally on the stage (although she mainly did tap by that time), so it was lovely to give her the chance to participate. You will find her on the group photo in a wheelchair, I think in 2006 – I was with Rattlejag that year (my other team) and brought her up from her house in Eastgate to the Minster to see the ceremony. It would be nice if Dot could be remembered in your recordings. She was dancing with us many years earlier, in her 60s, and I know she did the Gate with us then’.

On Chris Metherell’s Garland Films website is this short description “Dot Murphie learned her clog dancing in Liverpool from Jack Callaghan during the 1920’s. She soon became a professional entertainer, initially touring with a juvenile troupe known as the De Vere Babes, but eventually becoming a solo performer in variety halls all over the UK”.

Rattlejag Rattle their goats toe nails in the Minster Photo from Malcolm Smith







**Random memory from Jayne Rose:** *What a surprise for Rattlejag Morris to be asked to dance in the Minster. We weren't at full strength that year; our stand-in musician had to leave early so we borrowed a musician to play for us. It was a super experience and luckily my husband was around to take a few action photos.*



## **CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT**

### **2007 THE GATE TO SOUTHWELL GETS A FESTIVAL**

June 9th      The 27th Gate and the 1st Gate to Southwell Folk Festival  
Sides: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original Morris Men, Braybrooke Morris,  
Green Velvet Outlaws, Maids of Clifton, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey,  
Sullivan's Sword, Whip the Cat, Yellow Belly Morris', New St George  
Anstey Royale Chalfont, Broadstone (rep)

Anstey Royal Chalfont danced in the Minster

The chosen charity was: Nottinghamshire Hospice.

The programme was a joint Gate and Festival programme and was produced by the Festival.

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,  
*'2007. This was the year that Nottingham City Council rebuilt the Old Market Square at vast expense - turning it into the bleak wasteland (with spurty fountains!) that it now is. Putting an image of the council house on the badge therefore seemed appropriate'.*



### At the Council House

Below: Andy Padmore distracts the cameraman while Bob tells the Mayor what to do





At Sneinton Community Centre we were given the spectacle of a banner on the front wall, **‘Please Pray for Maddie to come home safely’ [Madeline McCann].**

In 2007 no refreshments were available at the Community Centre and in Mike Wilkinson’s DMM newsletter write up he makes a few subtle digs/references which the more discerning reader may pick up on!



The 2007 proclamation read by Tom Huggon went as follows...

‘Oyez, Oyez, Oyez,

SNEINTON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SOCIETY

To the Anstey Old Original, Anstey Royal Chalfont, Braybrooke Morris, Dolphin Morris, Green Velvet Outlaws, Maids of Clifton, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey, Sullivan’s Sword, Whip the

Cat, Yellow Belly Morris Dancers, and the Nottinghamshire Hospice and the Nottinghamshire Constabulary greetings,

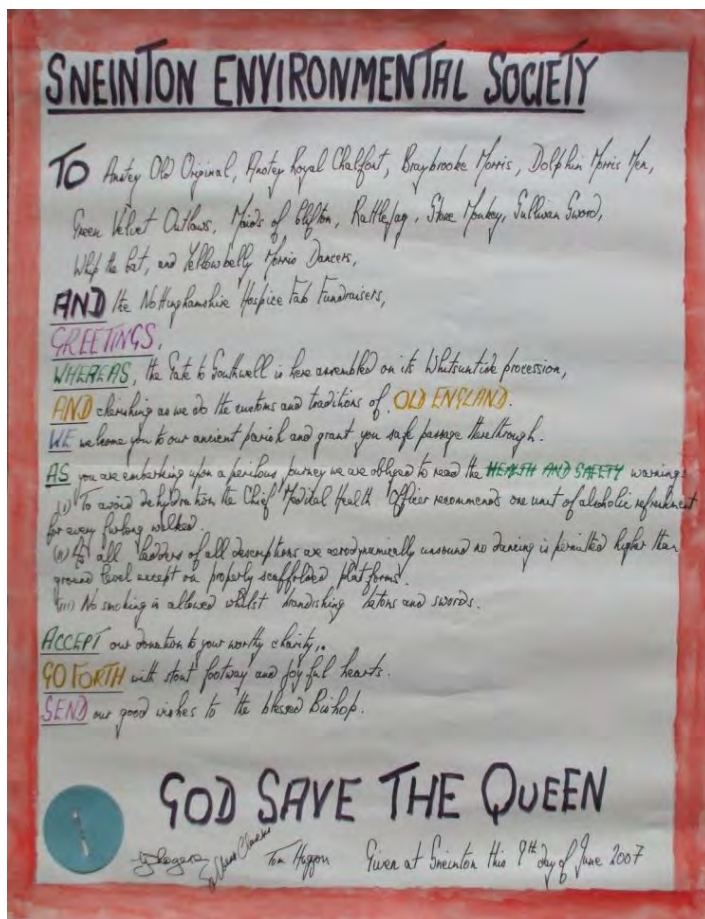
Whereas the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide Procession and cherishing, as we do, The customs and traditions of Old England

We welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through.

As you are embarking on a perilous journey we are obliged to read to you the Health and Safety warnings; To avoid dehydration the Chief Medical Health Officer recommends one unit of alcohol for every furlong walked

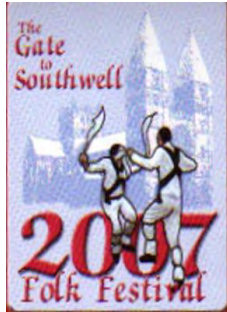
All ladders of all descriptions are aerodynamically unsound so no dancing is permitted higher than ground level except on properly scaffolded platforms No smoking is allowed whilst brandishing batons and swords Accept our donation to your worthy charity; Go forth with stout footwear and joyful hearts Send our good wishes to the Blessed Bishop.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



**Random memory:** From Moira Ruff of Dukes Dandy and Rattlejag – ‘I always looked forward to the arrival at Sneinton and the wonderful greeting, refreshments and the loos (what devastation when the latter were not available a couple of years ago [2007]). All the usual other memories: Burton Joyce - and an opportunity to see everyone dance and the villagers coming to watch. Different pub experiences (especially as they evolved and revamped over the years), of course - offering mainly excellent food and good ale, even if the audiences were a bit thin, especially in latter years. Doing our stint carrying the banner (in the wind!) - and our admiration for those of you that walked the whole way. But best memories are of the end of the day in Southwell - the parade, the Minster ceremony, the thrill of dancers in the Minster itself (and the fantastic sense of honour and pride when it was your team invited), and the Bramley Apple afterwards. It is hard to separate

all the years out, but they have all been memorable none the less and I wouldn't have missed any of them’.



The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival poster whilst showing photographs of performers at the festival did show its connection with the event that gave it its name. Alongside Vin Garbutt, Waterson Carthy and Kathryn Tickell there was The Maids of Clifton and a Dolphin Morris man. The Dolphin man was our own Steve Parker a country member who joins us when he can from his home in the Cotswolds, and on the occasion when the photograph was taken he was with us in London on a Westminster Morris day of dance! The programme did at least show a few current local Dolphins!

**THE 1ST GATE TO SOUTHWELL FOLK FESTIVAL**

Around the already well established dance procession we've now added a really great programme of concerts, workshops (some in The Workhouse), dance and activities featuring a fantastic array of top line performers including the Kathryn Tickell Band, Vin Garbutt, Norma Waterson, Martin Carthy and Eliza Carthy, John Tams and Barry Coope, Malinky, The Demon Barber Roadshow, The Doonans, The New Rope String Band, Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, Colvin Quarmby, John Kirkpatrick and Mr. Gubbins' Bicycle, Johnny Dickinson and a host of other established and up and coming artists from the national and local scene.

Two stages, on site camping, children's concerts and activities, a craft fair and a beer & cider festival, all contained on one site next to the National Trust Workhouse (on the A612 within 10 minutes walk of the town centre).

As well as all this there's a whole lot more happening in the town, including a continental market on all three days, with street theatre, music and dance performances at various open air venues.

For more details or to book your ticket, call 01636 812852 or visit [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk)

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Buses and trains will enable you to follow the procession from Nottingham to Southwell. Buses are best as the standard services closely follow the route and they are more frequent. However trains will enable you to stop at some principle locations (and to see more of the beautiful Trent Valley along the way).

**TRAINS**

The nearest station to Southwell is Fiskerton from where you will need a No 29 bus (hourly). You can stop at Burton Joyce, Lowdham and Bleasby.

**BUSES**

Pathfinder Services Nos.100 & 101 from Nottingham (Southwell Sprinter) run along the A612 every 20 mins. From Newark, service 29 & 29A run to Southwell but not to other locations along the procession route. For details of other services to local villages in the Trent Valley including trains between Nottingham and Newark via Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton, call TravelLine on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**SUPPORTED BY:**

Designed by Trent Publications 01636 822428 [www.trentpublications.com](http://www.trentpublications.com)



Mike Wilkinson in his July DMM newsletter 'Spout' write-up said;

*'As always, the Gate sort of happened around me, and I have only vague recollections.*

*Incomprehensible speech by the Lord Mayor, Rousing speech by Bob Hine, Traditional Spontaneous joke about the horse, Universal laughter, Amusing reference to Lord Mayor buying the beer, Ironic cheers, High speed procession through town and down to Sneinton randomly cheered or ignored by the populace of Nottingham, No tea, Amusing speech by Tom Huggon.*

*"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" "Oh no! Oh no! Oh no!" No tea. "Cherishing as we do..." No tea. "Go forth with stout footwear..." No tea. Long thirsty procession up the hill,*

*locals watching shyly from behind twitched curtains. Bus to Burton Joyce. Slightly chaotic procession to Cross Keys. Everyone dances.*

*Stone Monkey, as always, steal the show, 'y'knaa, wi' their Geordie Fools an' that, man'. Surprise visit by 5 members of the [Mike] Wilkinson clan including 4 week old boy, George. Amused Dolphins queue up to take photographs of Uncle Mike holding the baby. Andy not at all nervous about playing in the Minster later. Ramshackle procession out of village.*

*Lunch at Lowdham. Some catering-related chaos at The Ship, but good service at the Magna Charta. Small procession (about six of us) set off on foot and reach The Black Horse, processing to the sound of Janet's recorder, then to Idwal Jones singing a ballad, then to me playing harmonica. Ironic cheers as we arrive. Dancing at the Black Horse with Laurence Platt [erstwhile founder member of DMM] playing for us, after persuading him Alan Halliday [erstwhile DMM] was a Dolphin.*



At Bleasby taking tea and scones with the W.I. while Whip the Cat Rapper'd



*More bus journeys, more pubs. Tea and scones at the WI. (Some tea at last!) Arrival in unfamiliar coach park and meander through the twitchel to the Minster.*



*Andy\*\* plays for the singing in the Minster. Dolphin's chests bursting with pride at their melodeon wunderkind. Andy is unduly modest, but clearly pumping with testosterone. Not much he couldn't teach John Kirkpatrick, oh yes!*



*\*\*Andy Padmore recalls, 'When I was asked to play at the Minster I thought it was a joke to get me going so I took no notice and continued to take no notice until very close to the day Chris Gigg asked me how I was getting on with the tunes? Realising that I was actually playing the music I quickly had to get Nick Murphy to record both tunes on my mini-disk recorder and I then practiced like mad to get them right.'*



*They are simple tunes, and arrangements, so no different to the tunes I regularly play for the DMM to dance to, but somehow they took on a far greater degree of difficulty. I was to be the lone musician playing in front of extremely competent musicians from other sides, and all this in the setting of the Minster – I am a very basic player, but luckily have a decent sense of timing – it was oddly a tough one but I think I pulled it off...give me The Valentine Fieldtown, any-day!’*

*Long, walky, processiony, type thing to folk festival. Half the procession takes the wrong turning and ends up in The Bramley Apple by mistake - they decide to have a beer, pause and consider their options. Meanwhile, strange drably-attired earnest people sit in a field as we dance under an awning.*



*Bus journey home, and long negotiations with the driver over where to drop us off. Well done to Chris for organising the event. Excellent leaflets with two pictures of me (MW). Chris had to make compromises to fit in with the festival. I'm sure much has been learned and next year all the feedback will be incorporated into the plan. But what an excellent day’.*

On 1st , and 15th June 2007 the Newark Advertiser ran articles on the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival...details below:

**On 1st June** the write-up described the Gate procession and what it is about:

*'The Gate to Southwell procession dates back to 1109, when the Archbishop of York wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking for contributions for the building of Southwell Minster. The donations, known as the Southwell Pence, were carried to the town in processions by each parish.*

*In its modern form, the Gate to Southwell began in 1981, when Morris Dancers revived the custom.*

*The Southwell Pence are collected from the Lord Mayor of Nottingham and transported to Southwell by relay teams of dancers. They are then ceremonially presented to the Minster.*

*The event is celebrated by the Morris teams with traditional dances and music. They then process through the town, singing and dancing at pubs along the way.*

*This year the procession will end at the festival site, where the teams will perform before the evening concerts begin.'*

This piece is accompanied by a photograph of Ian Ambrose, carrying the cross, with Mike Wilkinson, and event organiser Chris Gigg all arriving at the Minster through the entrance arch on Church Street.



**On 15th June** the write-up describes the arrival of the procession at the Festival:

*'Morris Dancers from the Gate to Southwell, an ancient tradition and annual Morris celebration from Nottingham to Southwell Minster to hand over the Southwell Pence, arrived at the festival. The crowds watched as almost 100 dancers took part in impromptu demonstrations.'*

Anstey Royale Chalfont at Hoveringham



**Immediate Release: Tuesday 27th February 2007**

The **Gate to Southwell Folk Festival** is given a grant of **£9,968** to help expand and promote the ancient Gate to Southwell custom. A procession carries the Southwell Pence – money for the upkeep of Southwell Minster – on a 14-mile route from Nottingham to Southwell, and is accompanied by traditional singing and dancing.

The advertising added,

"The award will enable this group to run a new folk festival to augment the existing 'Gate to Southwell' event. Music and dance workshops will increase skills and the festival will promote interest in the cultural heritage of the area."

Dolphin performing at the Cross Keys at Burton Joyce



A search of Google discovered this 'Gate' entry.

### **Welcome to Sullivans Sword - Yorkshire Longsword Dancing**

#### **NEWSLETTER No.2 - SPRING 2007**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June:** 'The Gate to Southwell. The annual pilgrimage leaves the Old Market Square in Nottingham at 8.45 am and takes all day walking, dancing and riding to Southwell Minster to hand over the "Southwell pence". This year the event links in with the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival which runs all weekend at a site next to the Southwell Workhouse: [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk). Two of our team are on the organising committee and I'd like to give a big plug for the super guest list which includes Kathryn Tickell, Vin Garbutt, Waterson Carthy, The New Rope String Band and lots, lots more.'



Maids of Clifton process through Burton Joyce

In the 2007 autumn/winter issue (No 31) of the 'Nottinghamshire Hospice' there is a small piece which says,

*'After a fabulous day this year, we are pleased to announce that once again we will be the chosen charity for the Gate to Southwell event. If you would like a fun filled day helping to collect donations, to walk or cycle the route for sponsorship, or simply find out more, please contact Maureen [Osbourne] in Fundraising'.*

More photographs from 2007: These courtesy of Malcolm Smith of Rattlejag



Rattlejag waiting for Tom Huggon



And handing over the Southwell Pence





Gathering for the service in the Minster and Anstey Royale Chalfont's show dance





Steve Tunnicliff and Liz Pearce of New St George at The Cross Keys, Burton Joyce



**Random memory** from Linda Hewing, '2007 was the year Alice (Coady), Jenni (Sullivan), Flo (Liggins) and Nick (Quigley) "missed the bus" (got left behind!) at Hoveringham I think, with the swords and then thought they'd wait in the pub across the road for someone to come and get them! Alice recalls: "Half an hour later we realised none of us had any 'phone signal and you'd all been trying to 'phone us. We had to get lifts with the Monkeys and when we finally met up with you all at the tea rooms it was our turn to carry the banner. Me, Jen and Flo (we'd lost Quig!) decided to hitch a lift on the Hospice bus and went past you all and got to the pub first. Kathryn was not pleased and many pints had to be bought".



## **CHAPTER TWENTY NINE**

**2008**

### **A HEX ON THE MINSTER SERVICE**

June 7th

The 28th Gate

Sides on the procession: Dolphin, Sgt Musgrave's, Anstey Old Original, Braybrooke, Lincoln Yellow Belly Morris, Maids of Clifton, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Bare Bones, Black Pig, Stone Monkey, Whip the Cat, Rattlejag, Black Annis, Broadstone (rep)  
Sides joining in at Southwell (from the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival)  
The Witchmen, Mortimer's, Handsworth Sword and Lowes Wong  
longsword dancers from Lowes Wong School, Lord Conyers Morris Men

The chosen charity was: Nottinghamshire Hospice

The programme leaflet was produced by the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival organisers with four of the six panels given over exclusively to the procession and two pointing out the delights to be found at the Festival.

Bare Bones and Dolphin danced in the Minster and 'HEX' [3 part harmony group from the ranks of the Witchmen] sang a chorus song. Dolphin danced the eight man Jenny Lind from Lichfield.

Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says,

*'2008. I cribbed the basic design for this from an earlier badge I had produced for Dolphin's Ring Meeting in 2004. I added the Dolphin heraldic 'supporters' and the wording relates to the side's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The devices in the quartering are charged to reflect items on the gate more accurately such as the minster, Morris kit, the Bramley apple and beer!'*



The 2008 badge



and the 2004 inspiration

Chris Gigg asked in an email:

*Hi Guys, In previous years I have made no special request for dancers to do the 'Gate'. Most years about 4 or 5 Dolphin are there, they all get a dance but I usually have to ask another side to dance in the Minster.*

*With this being the 40<sup>th</sup> year for Dolphin, I am appealing for as many as can to attend just the Minster service and Southwell Procession, 4.50 to 5.30 Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, to show our peers what we can do on the big occasion.*

*I hope you can make just a small part of the day. You are welcome to come along for all of it as well. Please drop me a line so I can get an idea of numbers,*

*Many thanks, Chris'*

And later added:

*Hi all, Thanks to all of you who volunteered to be on this year's Gate and especially to dance in the Minster. I will circulate times etc shortly.*

*BAD NEWS – There will be a small charge for the bus, (about £2-£3)*

*GOOD NEWS – I am printing the beer tickets !*

*See you Thursday,*

*Chris'*

Andy Padmore replied to Chris,

*'That's good news about the bad news, I thought it was likely to be more!*

*That's bad news about the good news because a minor slip of the fingers on a slippery keyboard could result in more beer tickets being printed than intended – which of course with your steady hands is unlikely to ever happen (thank goodness!)*'

Chris replied,

*Hi Andy, 'As you say, there was a slip of the finger in printing out beer tickets, luckily, in our favour. Say no more! Chris*

*P.S. If anyone asks you ain't seen me, right!'*

Your secret is safe with me Chris. No one need ever know.

[In Chris's email there was a picture of a pint of beer that might be obtained using an extra beer ticket that was printed by mistake. The picture was removed to protect those who need protecting]

Below: DMM celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year mustered a side early



The banner in all its glory held taut by our lovely volunteers Clive and Mike



Bob and the Mayor kick things off



The crowds waited for Bob's annual horse joke and were not disappointed



The crowd were itching to set off, some were just itching



2008 was the first year the Police fielded a full side, so they weren't sure where to go



Dave Gough and Janet Mellors got lumbered (sorry volunteered) into carrying the banner



High Pavement with the Police on high alert



The procession leaves High Pavement





Tom prepares to regale the masses with another proclamation of friendship



The 2008 proclamation went as follows;

SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY  
 To the Anstey Old Original Morris Men, Bare Bones Border Morris, Braybrooke,  
 Black Annis, Dolphin Morris Men, Foresters Morris Men, Greenwood Clog, Maids of

Clifton, Rattlejag, Sgt Musgrave's, Stone Monkey, Yellow Belly dancing troupes,  
Greetings,  
Whereas the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide Procession and  
cherishing, as we do,  
The customs and traditions of Old England  
We welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage there through.  
In particular we guarantee;  
Your progress will not be impeded by any ill-disposed persons, viz and to wit;  
No road hauliers protesting about oil prices;  
No frustrated French fishermen  
Nor any Police Constables stopping and searching for swords or sticks.  
Now accept our donation to your worthy charity The Nottinghamshire Hospice  
Go forth, with stout footwear and joyful hearts and a relishing thirst. Send our good wishes  
to the Blessed Bishop who will I'm sure give special mention to Cynthia of Rattlejag whose  
birthday it is today. All sing 'Happy Birthday to you'.

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Signed by Tom Huggon, Gilbert Clarke, G Rogerson

Given this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008 at Sneinton

(Gilbert at this point should ring the bell and shout 'Hip Hip' but he stood deep in thought and had to be prompted by Tom.....(nudge) Hip Hip Hooray (x3)





Above: Gilbert Clarke, Bob Hine and Tom Huggon have attended all 28 Gates so far

The Dolphin newsletter Spout written by Mike Wilkinson reported,

*'The Gate Pleasant weather for most of the day, except lunch time when it rained. A large turn out from Dolphin, we danced well, and nothing significant went wrong. It was a good day out. The Mayor sent us off after Bob had made his traditional "Mayor on a horse" joke and quoted that "ayle that they dranke at alle tymes" thing what he wrote all those years ago.*

*The Mayor replied in pidgin gibberish; somehow our great city has a Mayor who literally struggles to read a speech in English.*

*The long procession to Sneinton was enlivened by a car trying to overtake us on Pennyfoot Street by squeezing between the dancers and the central reservation. The senior police officer present saw this and radioed a warning to a WPC who took great delight in stopping the car and reading the Riot Act to the driver.*

*Later, half way up the hill into Sneinton, a car coming down tried to squeeze past, and I heard a young copper explaining in Padmoresque detail about how this ancient custom of taking money to the mother church at Southwell had been going on since 1109, so he was sure the driver could delay his journey by a few minutes if we've been doing this for 900 years, couldn't he, Sir?*

*At the Hermitage, Tom Huggon made his rousing and topical speech with all the traditional expressions: Whereas... cherishing as we do... go forth with stout footwear... we grant you safe passage... . What a fantastic bloke. Sadly, his sidekick, Gilbert, seems to be slowing down a little bit, and forgot to do the "God save the Queen, hip hip!" bit. Tom had to fill in for him.*

*Then we processed up the long hill through Sneinton, bringing colour to the drab lives of the local populace. The police had merry fun stopping motorists and taking the opportunity to remind them to put their seat belts on. I counted three, which I think is 2 points each, but double if the car is an Audi.*

*Now on to Burton Joyce, for the massed display, with each team performing once. We did Brighton Camp, Headington, and were as good as anybody, and better than many.*

*Due to some stuff I didn't quite follow about the Ship, we were at The Railway for lunch. They had catered well, preparing huge piles of cobs with popular fillings, and lunch was cheaper and more efficient than any that I can remember on the Gate. A few sides, including us, danced on the forecourt, although it was a little damp.*



*Another show at the Black Horse, Caythorpe, with my favourite landlady providing bowls of chips and sardonic encouragement to the dancers.*

*The Coach and Horses - more dancing. I did a "Morris Sunderland" [Late Ex Squire of the Morris Ring and exceptional Morris fool whose party piece was to 'borrow' a pedal cycle and use it to comedic effect] and rode a borrowed bicycle through the set in the Cross over in Upton. I think this startled the top pair in the set; I'm not used to riding a cycle that extends behind me - my unicycle is vertically configured - so perhaps I didn't leave enough space with the bike's back wheel. Sorry.*

*It all gets a bit hazy now. I think I might have caught something from a dirty beer glass.*

*Anyway, I remember scones and tea at the WI, and then returning to the bus to find Stone Monkey playing cricket in the road outside the Waggon and Horses, using litter bins as wickets. In the old days, cricket was played on the field opposite the pub, but at least the traditional Gate cricket match is continuing in one form.*

*Now what? Er... The Bromley Armsh, I thhinksh... The other sides danced here but we didn't. Wil and Clive were keen to get a jig going, but the moment passed.*



Black Annis plus mascot at the Bromley Arms, Fiskerton

*And then to Easthorpe, to be joined by teams of dancers from the Festival. One of the buses had gone astray, despite Joe being in charge of it, and there was some confused milling around and the procession took a bit longer to form up than usual. The procession then set a storming pace along the main street to the Minster.*



*The weather was good for the handing over of the money, and Bob made a good job of the speeches, managing to ad lib amusingly when certain sides' representatives were Absent Believed Boozing.*



Bob handed over the 13/4d from Nottingham and added, *'This will put a few more stones on the Minster'*

Sgt Musgrave's Dance handed over 1/- for Keyworth

Yellow Belly Morris handed over 4/8d for Bingham

Rattlejag handed over 2/- for East Retford

Braybrooke handed 1/8d for South Collingham

Anstey Old Original handed over 2/6d for Mansfield – or would have done had they not been (according to Bob) *'delayed in the Bromley Arms'*

Bare Bones handed over 7d for Rempstone

Maids of Clifton handed over 1/6d for Clifton

Black Annis handed over 3/- for Laxton – but they must have been with Anstey)

Foresters handed over 6d for Bramcote



Greenwood Clog handed over 2/- for Arnold



Lowes Wong School handed over the pence for Haylem

Dolphin handed over 8d for Kingston-on-Soar

Witchmen (on behalf of the Festival sides) handed over 5/- for Southwell

And finally,

Chris Gigg handed over 3¼d on behalf of Adbolton

*Into the Minster for the service. "You are all most welcome, and we invite you into your Cathedral Church" said the Dean John Guille.*

*We only did one of the two traditional songs (Lord of the Dance) and a group called Hex sang a three part performance song in place of the usual My Faith it is an Oaken Staff. Bare Bones did*



*a performance dance - the one with two tambourines, and DMM did a very creditable performance of Jenny Lind.*



*After the Minster everyone went by bus to the Festival site to claim a free beer, there was no dancing.*

*I've made it plain that I personally regret some of the changes to the format of the events at Southwell. I've said my piece, and some people broadly agree, and some don't. What has come out of that debate is firstly how important the Gate has become to us, and to me personally, as a tradition in its own right, and secondly how much commitment it takes from Chris, and those who help him, to organise the event.*

*In my whole time with the side, I have organised exactly one thing (a Chinese meal in about 1990) and I have only the deepest of respect for those like Chris and Dave who do that sort of stuff year in and year out.'*

As part of Chris Gigg's preparations for the Gate he exchanged emails with Canon Jacqui Jones at the Minster...

Jacqui said,

*Chris Thanks for letting me know the plan of the Gate when it gets to the Minster. Any chance of us having a couple of Dances - we want to try to clear most of the nave for you this 900th year even though there is a service at 3pm and it would be good if you could use the space. I will forward your thoughts to the Dean - John Guille*

*Best wishes*

*Jacqui'*

Chris said,

*Hi Jacqui, Lets go for 2 dances then please :-*

*Dean - welcomes the dancers, processors, folk festival goers and public to the Minster as in previous years*

*Hymn - 'Lord of the Dance' most likely*

*Dance 1 by a Morris Team in the Minster (BARE BONES)*

*Prayer*

*\*Singing group song (HEX)*

*Dance 2 by a Morris Team in the Minster (DOLPHIN – Jenny Lind)*

*Prayer and Blessing*

*Many thanks,*

*Chris'*

The Minster website in 2008 informed:

### **Minster opens doors for wedding weekend**

Southwell Minster will open its doors for a weekend of wedding celebrations culminating in a special service to celebrate marriage at 2pm on Saturday, 7th June 2008. The Dean, the Very Reverend John Guille said he hoped as many people as possible would join the celebration service on Saturday. He explained: "Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate, you don't have to have been married at the Minster to join us, we would like to see the cathedral packed and we will also be treating everyone to a reception after the service — so, whether you've been married for 60 years or 6 weeks, we'd love you to join us."

Later on the same afternoon the Minster will also welcome 'pilgrims' from the 'Gate to Southwell' celebration, which will include music and Morris dancing outside the Minster and at other locations in the town.

## The 2008 Gate programme

### The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival

Allied to the traditional and spectacular Gate to Southwell dance procession we now have a fabulous Folk Festival which offers something for everyone particularly families.

A superb rural site on the edge of town, on-site camping, two stages - under cover seating, concerts, open mic sessions, ceilidhs, dance displays, craft stalls, a beer and cider festival, workshops, and special children's concerts, entertainment and activities (both educational and fun).


The fantastic array of top line performers including **Bellowhead, Cara Dillon, Tanglefoot, Solas, Maire Ni Chathasaigh and Chris Newman, Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies, Bob Fox, 422, Rachel Unthank and the Winterset, The Omega 3, Hilary James and Simon Mayor and many more.**

Southwell, with its many charming pubs, eateries and historic buildings is well worth a visit. Throughout the weekend you can see mini concerts, dance displays and a variety of other street entertainment in many places around the town, not to mention the impromptu sing-arounds and music in those characterful pubs.

The famous Minster is celebrating its 900th year and Dolphin Morris (leading the spectacular Dance procession) celebrate their 40th year.

The lineup also features many national and local artists including: **Bill Caddick, All Blacked Up, Brooks Williams, Ruth Notman, Flossie Malavialle, Gareth Pearson, Quicksilver, Dr Sunshine, Stanley Accrington, Something Nasty in the Woodshed, Six Hands In Tempo, Kerfuffle and Zut Alors and many others.**

For updates on our guest list visit: [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk) or call: **01636 816678.**



### "Festival Experience"

#### Day Ticket only £6 per day

(£12 whole weekend) Children under 12 free  
(Children 12-17 Ticket £2 day - £4 weekend)

**Price includes admission to:**

- Second performance marquee featuring a host of local performers and selected main bill artists
- All three Ceilidhs including Childrens
- All Childrens Events
- Beer Festival
- Dance Displays
- Sunday Seminar - Virtuosi Guitar demonstrations
- Food & Drink and General Concessions

**Tickets available in Southwell from:**

- Music In The Yard, The Wheatsheaf and The Bramley Apple pubs
- At the festival gate (subject to availability)
- Or by phoning Festival Line 01636 816678

#### Free Entertainment around the Town.

**Friday:**  
Minster - Concert 12.15pm (free) featuring **Tanglefoot** performing acapella voted "Best Vocal Group" in the Canadian folk music awards. **Ruth Notman** "Album of the Week" in "The Independent" and **Wick Lawlor**

**Saturday:**

National Trust Workhouse - Dancing: 11am - 12 midday	
Saracens Head Courtyard - Music and Dancing 12.00 - 3pm	
Bramley Apple	} - Dancing: 12 midday to 4pm
Bull Yard	
Admiral Rodney	} - Music 12 midday onwards
Market Square	
Festival Site	- Dancing: 12.15pm
Festival Site	- Mass Dance Display 6pm - 7pm

**Sunday:**

National Trust Workhouse - Dancing: 11am - 12 midday	
Bramley Apple	} - Dancing: 12 midday to 2.30pm
Saracens Head	
Admiral Rodney	} - Music and Dancing 12.00 - 2.30pm
Market Square	
Festival Site	- Dancing 12.45pm
Festival Site	- Dancing MASS DISPLAY: 3pm - 4.30pm


**"The Hobgoblin Hooley"** Instrumental session at the Coach House between 4.30 and 6.30 and Singaround with Flossie Malavialle, John Kirk and others at The Bramley Apple, 4.30 - 6.30 both on Saturday.

All timings approximate and subject to change.

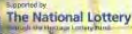

## Gate to Southwell

### Dance Procession Nottingham to Southwell Sat 7th June 2008

### Folk Festival 6th - 8th June



**"Festival Experience"**  
**Day Ticket only £6 per day**  
(see back)

Supported by  The National Lottery and  Heritage Lottery Fund

Linda Hewing informed that;

*A rough chronology of mine and Alice's [Alice Coady] Gate career :*

- *I think I would have danced on the Gate with Aidley's from 1984 - 1988; had 1989 off but came along to Southwell with Alice aged 6 months, then danced again with them, 1990-1992.*
- *I left Aidley's in 1993 when I had Jacob, and had a break from dancing, but came along to Southwell in 1993-1996.*
- *I joined Green Velvets in 1995-1996 and (probably) did the Gate with them 1997-1999.*
- *I joined Mortimer's in 1997, and did the Gate with them in 2000, 2002 and 2005.*
- *I joined Whip the Cat in 1999, and did the Gate with them 2003-2007; taking a change of kit and doubling up for Mortimer's in 2005!*
- *Alice did the Gate with Sweetie Rapper a couple of times, between 1997-1999*
- *She then did it with Risen Devils in 2004*
- *Alice then did it with Cats in 2005-2007.*
- *Cats didn't do the gate in 2008, but Alice and I were there with Stone Monkey. - Mortimer's did the festival instead that year.*

*- I was ill in 2001, but we both went on the Monkey's bus with Tom; and Alice either came with me on the main route or went with Tom on the Monkey's bus in 2000-2003. I think that covers all years from 1984 to 2008! 24 years and 7 teams between us!*



Rapper team gated !! Obligated to attend church to atone for excessive drinking, Stone Monkey at the Gate to Southwell...

The Gate to Southwell is a traditional Nottinghamshire event that dates back to the year 1109, when the Archbishop of York – Thomas of York – wrote to each of the parishes of Nottinghamshire, asking them to contribute to the building of a new mother church at Southwell. This resolved a dispute as to whether the Notts. Offerings should be given to York or Southwell. The offerings – the Southwell Pence – were brought to St. Mary's Southwell by an annual procession at Whitsuntide. The procession began at Nottingham and was headed by the mayor and corporation in their best ceremonial robes. Apparently, the mayor was allowed a certain discretion and sometimes did not come “because of a foulness of the way or distemperance of the weder” Behind the mayor came clergy who could use the occasion to get up to date with church business and ordinary people combining a pilgrimage with a holiday excursion.

We do not know precisely when the annual procession was ended, but it seems likely to have been in the 16th century, when the Reformation of the church, and especially the break with Rome, undermined the religious purpose of the procession. In the late 18th century, the annual church meeting, which used to be held in conjunction with the procession, was abolished. Even after the procession had long ceased to be held, the Chapter Clerk kept up the custom of attending in the North Porch of the Minster, where his predecessors had collected the Southwell Pence.

The Gate to Southwell is of particular interest to traditional dance enthusiasts because the Nottingham borough records show that in 1530 entertainment on the procession was provided by a team of Morris dancers. They were rewarded for their efforts by payment from the borough for their bells, coats and the ale that the dancers “drank at all times.” ‘Gate’ is derived from the Scandinavian word ‘gata’ meaning ‘road.’

The tradition was revived in 1981 and, since that time, local dance teams have collected and carried the Southwell Pence each Whitsuntide. These days, the proceeds go to a worthwhile charity. The hardest process the 13 miles [21 km] from Sneinton, on the outskirts of Nottingham, to Southwell, dancing at several of the villages along the route and taking a little light refreshment to sustain their pilgrimage along the way.

Those of a rapper persuasion, being somewhat anarchic, hire a minibus and dance in as many pubs as possible – ranging either side of the main route. Their refreshment is more substantial – more in keeping with the spirit of 1530!

The modern Gate still ends at St. Mary's with the presentation of the Pence, and the assembled dancers are invited into the church. One group is chosen to dance, and the assembly sings ‘Lord of the Dance.’ Finally a blessing is bestowed. Providing they have caught up with the proceedings, and received absolution for their wayward behaviour, the rapper dancers pull up their [striped] socks and adjourn with everyone else to the Bramley Apple for a free pint and a last dance. It has to be one of the best outings of the year!

Also found on the internet on 11th Feb 2009 and written by Stuart Frew.

Hi, My name is Stuart Frew and I like to write stuff.

### [The Gate to Southwell](#)

The market town of Southwell north-east of Nottingham is a most appealing place. It has many distinguishing features, not least the huge Minster dating back to Norman times



that dominates the locality and the town being a home of romantic poet, Lord Byron for a period. In truth, Southwell deserves an article of it's own and certainly will have one when the time presents itself. Today however I wanted to talk about the resurrection of an ancient custom known as the 'Gate to Southwell'.

With origins going back to almost 900 years ago, at the time when the Southwell Minster was first being built, the Archbishop of York wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire requesting monetary contributions for the 'Mother Church' as he called it. From that time at each Whitsuntide the Mayor of Nottingham and a representative from each parish would take their contributions to the Minster in a procession. There would be much attendant revelry on the journey which would begin in Nottingham's Old Market Square and contain lay folk, the clergy and at the head of the company the Mayor in his traditional robes.

What met the representative of over 200 parishes was Southwell 'Feast Week' and the annual fair with donkey and horse racing, sports competitions and a generally merry time on the annual calendar at the onset of summer.

The financial contributions to the Minster known as the 'Southwell Pence' were given up to the Chapter Clerk at the Minster's North Porch before the celebrations began. The custom enduring well into the 16th century before gradually fading into obscurity.

Local Morris men were very much involved in the custom in its latter decades and were actually financed by the Borough for their costumes and beer that they drank in no doubt copious



amounts over the festival! In 1981 local Morris men resumed their interest in the festival by reviving the ancient Nottinghamshire custom annually. The procession these days consists of a group of dancers who travel largely by coach, first meeting in the Old Market Square as the tradition dictates before travelling between village pubs performing (and drinking!) at each one as they go. It's very much a family atmosphere however with whole families in attendance and barrow loads of camaraderie and fun along the way.

A couple of summers ago, my partner and I were out cycling around some of the pretty villages by the River Trent and stopped off at The Reindeer pub, one of our favourites, in Hoveringham. The Gate to

Southwell crowd were gathered in the pub car park dancing and whilst I hasten to add, Morris dancing has never figured on my radar as one of life's favourite things the fun they were having was infectious.

We rode the quiet lanes up the river to Thurgarton before settling at Bleasby - the Wagon and Horses at Bleasby to be precise, for another drink. As we sat in the pleasant front yard of the old pub the group duly arrived and swarmed on the bar before their several Performances outside in the deserted lane. We shared a table with three thirty-something women and had a friendly chat in which they informed us they were a 'Rapper Sword' dance group. The girls had all learned the traditional dance whilst studying at Newcastle University, the North-East of England apparently being the birth place of the tradition.



A couple of drinks later and it was time for us to leave. The girls and the rest of the contingent were heading off to the next pub along the route to Southwell, finally to end the day out with a BBQ at the town. From just last year, Southwell now has a new fold music festival called the 'Gate to Southwell'. There is also a beer festival on the same site quite close to the Southwell Workhouse, a National Trust property. I hope the dancers and their friends and family have enough stamina and a little space left for an extra beer or two when they get there this year

on this coming Saturday 7th June.

#### The Saracen's Head, Southwell



On a personal note I never really believed I'd write an article containing Morris dancing! Being of a Caledonian persuasion, English country traditional dancing kind of leaves me a little non-plussed really! I have to say though that the infectious enjoyment and good humour of these folks, who don't in the slightest appear to take themselves too seriously, was seriously nice to encounter. Factor that with the beautiful villages and their pubs and gardens along the way, stately Southwell at the end of the journey and hopefully a nice sunny June afternoon and it's to be

recommended.

Catch up with these guys at any of the following pubs along the way:

Cross Key - Burton Joyce, 10.30am

Lowdham (various pubs), 12.00 - 1.00pm

The Black Horse - Caythorpe, 1.20pm

The Reindeer - Hoveringham, 1.50pm

Coach and Horses - Thurgarton, 1.50pm

Wagon and Horses - Bleasby, 2.50pm

The Bromley Arms - Fiskerton, 4.20pm

The group arrive in Southwell around 5.00pm

Minster opens doors for wedding weekend

Southwell Minster will open its doors for a weekend of wedding celebrations culminating in a special service to celebrate marriage at 2pm on Saturday, 7th June 2008.

Later on the same afternoon the Minster will also welcome 'pilgrims' from the 'Gate to Southwell' celebration, which will include music and Morris dancing outside the Minster and at other locations in the town.

[article posted: 24th May 2008]

Chris Gigg wrote in an email:

*Hi all, Thanks to all those who attended and made the day so enjoyable.*

*I thought we were the best dancing side at any spot all day. Streets ahead of some and definitely better than those we have come to admire on the local Morris scene.*

*I have had many thanks and compliments passed to me by the visiting sides, and although things did not always go to plan, I am sure everyone had a great time.*

*The dance in the Minster was our high point and we certainly performed well and got the loudest applause as well.*

*To those who could not make it this year, you missed a good day out.*

*Thanks, again, Chris*

Andy Padmore wrote,

*'Well done again Chris for organising the Gate. Your rewards are small for the tremendous amount of work you put in and we (and many others) take your organising for granted as we expect everything to be done for us. I thought our bit up to and including the Minster went very well. Dolphin danced well at The Cross Keys and in the Minster and were a class above some of the sides there. The scones at the tea stop were excellent, you must give us your recipe sometime. There are still obvious difficulties with the Festival and their attitude to the Morris but there may not be a lot we can do about that, but 'our' bit was as always done well.'*

Mike Wilkinson wrote...

*'I agree whole heartedly with Andy. Chris as always did a brilliant job. The day ran like clockwork. All the "landmarks" went well: the speeches in the square; the procession out to Sneinton; tea and speeches at the hermitage; the parade up the hill, bringing colour and joy to the drab lives of the Sneintonians; the dancing at the Cross Keys; lunch at Lowdham went exceptionally well; tea and excellent scones with the WI; and Dolphin danced very well in the two crucial dances: at the Cross Keys and the Minster.*

*There is of course a "but" coming. Can you sense my but?*

*Once we had to start compromising with the festival, there were several things of varying degrees of importance which took the edge off the day. The long trip to the beer tent instead of the happy walk to the Bramley Apple was, for me at least, a break with tradition too far.*

*Chris has done his best here. It is not Chris' fault that this festival has popped up on his watch, and he has had to come to some sort of an accommodation with it. Unfortunately, we are a small group of enthusiasts, led by volunteers, and the festival is a large commercial venture, with funding from a 5 figure grant, and led by a megalomaniac. (I have dealt directly with the guy*

over something else and found my "work head" clicking into gear within minutes of my first conversation with him.)

We are in the same position as the man who was running a chuck wagon and woke up one morning to find they'd built a McDonalds next door.

I have been on the Gate since the second one, when I walked the distance with Jane as part of the group from NTMC. Since then, I've done most of them, regarding it as a unique combination of fun and duty. It usually turns out better than I expect, although it is always a long hard day. But it's our long hard day, and I value it as such.

The traditional format has a natural narrative curve:

- 1) We set off with high hopes and enthusiasm from the square.
- 2) There are the set pieces at Sneinton and the Cross keys.
- 3) Lunch at Lowdham, with people still fresh enough to dance.
- 4) The day becomes a bit of a slog, with high points and low points as far as the Bromley Arms.
- 5) We pause and regroup at Easthorpe
- 6) We process in triumph to the Minster.
- 7) The ceremony and the service at the Minster are the climax.
- 8) We wind down at the Bramley Apple with a well-earned free beer.
- 9) Being Morris dancers, we show off a bit, and often the best dance spot of the day is the "spontaneous" one at the Bramley, even though we're all knackered.

This year's interaction with the festival changed some of the later stages in a way which I personally regret. In chronological order, rather than order of importance:

- 1) Sides who had not been on the journey jockeying for position at the front of the procession in Southwell.
- 2) Ian A. quite rightly fetching Foresters as a senior side who had been with us all day, and putting them at the front of the procession, and then someone else plonking a group of kids in front of Foresters!
- 3) At every Gate I can remember we have sung two songs: Lord of the Dance and My Faith it is an Oaken Staff. This year, we did only the one song, whilst three people from a side who had not been on the Gate sang a performance song.
- 4) The clergyman saying we would now get on with "the rest of the festival". No, the Gate is not part of the festival. The Gate is the Gate, and the festival is something with a similar name that happens on the same weekend. It may be a cuckoo in a wren's nest, but it is still a cuckoo.
- 5) Being bussed out of Southwell, past the Bramley Apple to a beer tent in the graveyard shift at the festival.
- 6) The festival having no use for us when we got there.
- 7) Not in chronological order, but I heard that some sides had danced in the Minster earlier in the day. I know we can't stop them, but it does seem to me to be a bit rude and to devalue our later arrival.

I suggest this:

- 1) The Gate is the Gate, and if the festival wants a piece of the action, they fit in with us. We should have the confidence to insist on doing what we do.
- 2) If people want to tag onto the procession, then they tag onto the back. Let the people who have earned it lead the way to the Minster.
- 3) Back to us doing the two traditional songs in the service.
- 4) After the Minster, we go to a pub (probably the Bramley Apple) and have the chance to dance, drink or relax as we see fit.



5) *If they want us to dance at their festival, they book one or more named sides for a specific time and stage and pay a proper fee. I personally would not want to do a paid booking at the festival earlier than about 7:30, to allow a decent break after the climax of our day's journey. But again, thanks Chris for all your hard work. It's not your fault this festival has come along, and I know you worked really hard to negotiate with them. You did your bit well.'*

Dave Walters of DMM said,

*'There was a very large crowd at the Minster so I'm sure quite a few came from the festival site this year. Cheers, Dave'*

Chris Giggs said,

*Hi all, Good point Dave. Also, there were no artist or activities at the Festival site from 4-7pm so the festivallers could attend.*

*I was asked to write an 'invite' to festivallers, to be issued with their wrist bands, asking them to come along to watch the procession and join us at the Minster. Pressure of work meant I forgot/couldn't be bothered, but the stop in artists activity etc. at the Festival site was planned by me and the organisers.*

*Regards, Chris*

Dave Walters said, *'... and I would like to thank Chris for taking on even more than usual this year. I normally look after the bus hire and the WI teas, but this year Chris has done those two jobs as well as the rest - to protect me from 40th Anniversary [DMM 40<sup>th</sup> 1968-2008] burnout. Many thanks Chris.*

*And thanks to Clive for doing my job of raking in the dosh from the late payers on the day. You'll make a good bagman one day!*

*Cheers Dave'*

Clive Cowx of DMM said, *'As a Gate Virgin (until I lost my maidenhood yesterday) I had nothing to compare it with in terms what it used to be like. As a result I thoroughly enjoyed the day and noticed absolutely nothing that felt like the festival was intruding on what I had thought would be the essence of The Gate – until we had to go to the festival after the Minster and I did, if I may be so bold and honest, think that was a bit of a waste of time – but hey it was a really good day.*

*I concur with all what Andy has said, thanks Chris – especially for the scones, cream and jam at the tea stop. Cheers Clive*

Ian Ambrose said, *'Thanks Chris Bob Dave - a superb day. Generally concur with feelings re: the Gate.*

*My two penn'orth I don't think we had any benefit from being involved in the festival - and certainly the festival wasn't enhanced by the Gate dancers. Although I don't know how many festivaller's came down to watch the procession.*

*And whilst it would be too easy to return to the Bramley - if we could create that post quoital feeling we had at the Bramley at the festival i.e. open stage, free beer and of course a captive audience it "could" be just as good. Don't know what the festival goers thought, a pile of Morris Dancers turn up have a drink and piss off.*

*A young lady approached me yesterday asking if an invitation could be given to her side (based down south) to attend the Gate. Just goes to show that the Gates fame is spreading.*

*Its great that a folk festival is on our turf and I'm sure some arrangement could be worked out so it didn't compromise our day.'*

Bob Hine wrote:

*Dear Chris, Many thanks for again organising a splendid Gate. I really enjoyed the day and was pleasantly surprised at the large turnout. I happily endorse the many positive things that have been written about the day, and especially about the scones of which I had two (...for quality control purposes).*

*For my part, I thought that the change of format in the Minster was an excellent idea. True, the singers chose an inappropriate song - but in principle it was a good way to link the procession and the festival, and the two dances worked well. I don't think that the format should be fossilised.*

*I also agreed with having the kids at the front of the procession - they are the future and if this helps them to have a positive attitude towards traditional dance, then it's worth doing. As to the procession to the Festival site, you were right to try to cooperate. We've all drawn similar conclusions from the experience and I'm sure that lessons will be learned for next year. Hasta la vista, & tapas, Bob Hine'*

The Newark Advertiser followed the fortunes of the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival and reported on the acts and goings on. The edition of June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 also reported on the Gate to Southwell procession:

***'Dancers arrive at minster'***

*Hundreds of people lined the streets of Southwell on Saturday as Morris dancers who had made their way from Nottingham entered the town during the traditional Gate to Southwell procession. About 100 Morris dancers from 13 teams across the country assembled at 8.30am at Nottingham's Council House in the Market Square before setting off for Southwell. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham Mr Mohammed Munir, presented the dancers with the traditional Southwell Pence – a sum of money collected from parishes in Nottingham to go towards the upkeep of Southwell Minster.*

*The dancers, carrying a wooden cross called at Sneinton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton. A Morris dance was performed at each stop. Buses were available although some dancers covered the whole route on foot. They assembled at the Coach House in Southwell before the final procession to the Minster where they presented the Southwell Pence to the Precentor, Canon Jacqui Jones. This was followed by a short church service and a celebratory dance. The procession dates back to 1109'.*

The Magazine Country Images Mid-Nott's in its September 2008 edition carried a three page article by Janet Smith, called,

***"Gate to Southwell The Merry Procession"***

*‘Oh dear mother what a fool I’ve been,  
Six young fellows came a courtin’ me,  
Five were blind and the other couldn’t see,  
Oh dear mother what a fool I’ve been.*

*The Gate to Southwell is a historic annual procession that takes place each June, winding its way from Nottingham to Southwell and is a feast for the eyes and ears. Still not widely known since its reintroduction in 1981, the ancient custom goes back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York wrote to each parish in Nottinghamshire requesting them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church, Southwell Minster.*

*Heading the procession would come the Mayor of Nottingham and Corporation in their best ceremonial robes, followed by clergy and lay people. Following them were a crowd of merrymakers, looking forward to fun at Southwell’s Whitsun Fair, with its village sports and horse and pony racing. The throng must have been tremendous for representatives of the Nottinghamshire parishes numbered around 250.*

*Around the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the custom had disappeared, but like modern revivers of plough plays and folk songs and dances, Nottingham’s dolphin Morris Men picked up the threads of an ancient pattern, and with other teams from around the country, sword, horn, clog, border, dance on. Today, the Mayor and the Corporation, and all the clergy are too busy on other matters to walk or ride the winding Gate (Scandinavian for street or way); and anyway administration of church and state are separate today, but in keeping with tradition, at the procession’s start in Nottingham, the Mayor hands over the city’s contribution, known as the ‘Southwell Pence’. Today, they also collect for charity as they go along.*

*From Nottingham the teams dance, eat and drink, process and ride, drink some more, dance and play, winding their merry way from alehouse to alehouse, surprising Saturday shoppers and stopping traffic, through Sneinton, Burton Joyce, Lowdham, Caythorpe, Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Bleasby and Fiskerton, finally arriving at their destination of Southwell Minster’s north door around tea time; hopefully with Southwell Pence intact. I caught up with them mid morning at Burton Joyce for their massed dance display outside the Cross Keys; a good place, according to one bystander, to catch them at their best, because “by the time they get to Fiskerton – they’re all kaylied”.*

*One group waiting to dance were Braybrook Morris, from Northamptonshire, who told me that traditionally teams took the names of villages they came from. They had not found any dances specific to Braybrook, but had made up a dozen of their own. Today though, they were demonstrating two dances from Adderbury collected by Cecil Sharp in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Had they been dancing many years? “Arr ohh arrr – since I was 50, no since I was 40. How old are you Fred?” “Same age as you Dan”. Like many other teams I spoke with, they came on the Gate to Southwell every year because “It’s a good day out with a crowd of competent and stylish dancers and a bit of fun”. In our uncertain summer, umbrellas were going up and down like flowering sea-urchins amongst the crowd, and I asked how their outfits coped with the weather. One went to fetch his tatty-coat, an over jacket of many coloured strips of material. “They keep*

*most of the rain off – and I've got a big umbrella". The wearing of tatty-coats was really a border tradition, but they had 'borrowed' it.*

*It had also I noticed, been 'borrowed' by the musician's dog of Black Annis, a woman's Morris team. Melding traditions is common within teams, creating whole new traditions. Admiring the woman's colourful outfits of purple, green and white, the dog's mistress told me, "We dance in suffragette colours, because we think it's important to support that piece of woman's history as well". Another layer of history lies within their name, Black Annis. "She was a Leicester witch, said to live in the Dane hills and she used to sit in her cave and entice little children and suck out their blood and crunch their bones and then hand their skins out to dry". A second voice added somewhat anxiously, "This is only one version – other versions are more positive. She could have been related to Cat Anna – or who's the other one in Swithland, Agnes Scott".*

*Yellow Belly Morris from Lincoln, another woman's dance team in the procession were formed four years ago. They wear their own design of eye-catching outfits of jackets of yellow hues and half face-masks. Were they hoping, as tradition, for a bit of beer and ale along the way? "Oh definitely, most definitely; beer and ale and dancing; yes and a really good time".*

*Before the 'Gate' became outdated in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Nottingham City paid Morris men the 'ale that they drank at all times', which must have been an expensive business; today one beer token per dancer on the 'Gate' is provided by the brewery.*

*I asked a member of the Dolphin Morris Men why he came on what was almost a Chaucerian pilgrimage each year. "It's a good question. I don't know; I don't know – perhaps perhaps because we've been doing it since eleven, eleven – how long have we been doing it?" '1109'. '1109 yes'. 'Revived in 1981' added the second voice. 'No, no, we've been doing it continuously since 1109 – just ask that chap in the beard, he was quite a young man when he first did it; so it would be quite a shame to miss a year. We used to walk all the way; in the early days we used to come on a donkey, or ass an ass – "The Lord Maoy came on horseback" said a second voice, 'Yes but once they'd brought out the charabanc, then we came on a charabanc, but lately we've used a bus – but yes we danced all the way'. And beer? 'Never! Never. Well maybe to quench the thirst, but we take no pleasure'.*

*As the procession winds its way up hill and down dale, Southwell fills with other dance teams involved in the new annual all weekend Folk Festival. Amongst them are Dukes Dandy Step Clog, Handsworth Sword Dancers, Yorkshore Longsword, Abbotts Bromley Horn Dancers and The Witchmen, classed as border Morris. If there are Hell's Angels in the Morris world, then surely they are The Witchmen; with their blackened faces, black outfits and feathered black hats, they look like no other team; for one thing they are all young; for another none appears under six feet tall. I mention to an elderly onlooker there is something pagan about their appearance. She lifts her eyebrows, 'You should see their Wicker Dance', she says; I make a mental note to watch out for it next year. Somewhat nervously I ask one of them about their dances. 'What. 'What we do is vaguely border Morris, which comes from the borders with Wales, Herfordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire; because Morris within its own establishment has so many different styles depending where in the country it comes from'. And their outfits; are they based on old designs? 'All sides even those that dance Cotswold Morris, they still make their own kit*

*up. It's traditional for Border Morris to wear a black face and wear a lot of black, but other than that no. Tradition's only as old as when it was last made up'.*

*When the 'Gate' arrives at Southwell Minster there is a reception committee of clergy including its new Dean the Very Rev John Guille waiting to welcome it. Then individual parish contributions of 'Southwell Pence' are handed over by a representative from each dance team. It is a lively affair; one of the Dolphin Morris Men acting as master of ceremonies, 'From the village of Rempstone – 7 pence; every little helps. From the metropolis of Bingham 4 shillings, 8 pence. All these teams have made the long and arduous journey from Nottingham this morning. Maids of Clifton will now present 1 shilling and 6 pence from the village of Clifton. Anstey Old Originals had a detour from their Leicester base to call in at Mansfield Woodhouse to bring a half a crown (but anstey Old Originals are missing). They might have been detained at the Bromley Arms! Laxton contributes 3 shillings – any Black Annis representatives here – seen going the other way?'*

*The grand total from 205 Nottinghamshire parishes amounts to £15 – 18s - 9¼d, and in keeping with modern times, a cheque is handed over. The dean accepts it graciously, saying it will come in very handy. Then the Motley throng of dancers and onlookers are invited into the Minster for a short thanksgiving service and songs such as 'To be a Pilgrim' and 'Lord of the Dance' are sung; then selected sides dance, clogs clattering, out on the 900 year old floor tiles, echoing the words of life and death and renewal.'*



## **CHAPTER THIRTY**

**2009  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
OR ISLE OF MAN?**

June 6th The 29th Gate and 3<sup>rd</sup> Gate Folk Festival  
 Sides on the procession: Dolphin, Anstey Old Original, Braybrooke, Maids of Clifton, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Stone Monkey, Rattlejag, Sallyport Sword and Lincolnshire Yellowbelly morris, New St George Sides joining in at Southwell (from the festival) ...Outside Capering Crew Handsworth Sword (Rep), Lord Conyers MM

The chosen charity was: 'Help for Heroes' and over £500 was collected on the day.

DMM and Foresters MM danced in the Minster providing three men each for the display. Dave Walters reported, 'We had a mixed side – Ian, Chris and Bob (the Gate Team) on one side, three Foresters on the other – doing the Valentine to Eric Foxley's playing. We were musicianless for most the day, so Eric was called upon quite a lot. Nick turned up for the Minster only, and I think he played for the hymns (but I had gone for a pee at the time).'

The Gate programme leaflet was produced and paid for by the Gate Festival but in 2009 the Festival took the lions share of space with the procession taking up less than two of the six available panels.

**The Gate to Southwell Dance Procession**  
 Sat 6th June 2009  
 Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Each year teams of morris dancers process in relays all the way from Nottingham city through some of the pretty Trent Valley villages to a final colourful rendezvous at Southwell Minster. Together, the Festival and Dance Procession muster hundreds of folk dancers representing a wide variety of different folk dance styles - (they don't all like to be called morris!). This historic event played an important part in the building of the minster and celebrates its 900th anniversary this year. It can trace its origins back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas de Beverley, wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church. Each year at Whitsuntide representatives from all the county parishes would carry their contributions - known as The Southwell Pence - to Southwell. Records show much merriment ensued and morris men were involved in the procession well into the 16th century when it appears to have ceased. It was appropriate therefore that in 1981 local morris men, Dolphin Morris, decided to revive this old Nottinghamshire custom. For more information visit [www.dolphin-morris.co.uk](http://www.dolphin-morris.co.uk)

In addition to the sides on the Procession, **Dance Displays** will be performed throughout the weekend on the festival site & at various venues in town. Sides booked so far: Mr Fox, Hoxon Hundred, Golden Star, Poacher, Kickstart Appalachian, Pig Dyke Molly, The Outside Capering Crew, Rattlejag, Zaporozhian Cossacks with more to be confirmed...

**Ceilidhs:**  
**Steamchicken - Friday night:** festival favourites nationwide with an infectious jazz/blues influence  
**Hekety - Saturday night:** exciting young band, energetic, rhythmic, stomping reggae, metal & klezmer influences.  
**Crowfoot - Sunday afternoon:** something a bit different for all the family! - high energy contra dancing featuring a wide variety of traditional and contemporary tunes from this Canadian outfit.

**Ticket Outlets**  
**Hyde-Barker Travel** at:  
 Southwell: 1 King Street, Southwell, Notts.  
 Mansfield: 7 Albert Street, Mansfield, Notts.  
 Olarton: 39 Forest Road, New Olarton, Notts.  
**R.S.T. Music Services,**  
 11c Stedman Street, Newark  
**Dave Mann Music,**  
 123 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

**How to find us**  
 Our venue is an 8.5 acre site next to The National Trust's Southwell Workhouse, NG25 0PT. Situated 13 miles from Nottingham on the A612 and 9 miles from Newark on the A617 and A612. Once in Southwell, follow signs for the Workhouse and The Racecourse. If travelling by train, alight at Fiskerton station then catch the no 29 bus to Southwell and get off near the Old Coach House pub (Easthorpe stop). To check train and bus times see below.

**Caravans**  
 If you wish to bring either a caravan or motorhome, it is essential that you ring 01636 816678 to reserve your space. Awings are not permitted.

**Car Parking**  
 Car Parking is available free of charge adjacent to the festival site.

**Dogs**  
 Only dogs required to assist people with disabilities will be admitted into the Festival Arena. Those bringing caravans or motor homes may bring dogs as long as they are kept outside the Festival Arena and are kept on a lead at all times.

**Travel and info links**  
 You can find details of services and times from:  
 Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk)  
 Bus services from surrounding areas:  
 28, 29, 29A Mansfield - Southwell - Newark  
 29B Bilsthorpe - Southwell - Newark  
 227 Newark - Southwell - Bilsthorpe - Edwinstowe  
 61 Nottingham - Arnold - Calverton - Southwell/Newark  
 100 & 101 Nottm - Southwell - Newark

The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters:

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**The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival**  
 5th-7th June 2009  
 Southwell, Nottinghamshire  
 An Exciting Weekend of the Best in Folk Music & Dance  
 Moonlighting ♦ Eliza Carthy  
 Show of Hands with Miranda Sykes  
 Eric Bogle & John Munro  
 Seckou Keita Quintet  
 Martin Simpson Trio ♦ Lau  
 Máire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman  
 Mawkin Causley ♦ Gwyneth Herbert  
 Flossie Malavialle ♦ Keith Donnelly  
 Wizz Jones ♦ Jackie Oates ♦ Pete Morton  
 Reg Meuross Band ♦ Steamchicken  
 Hekety ♦ Whaley & Fletcher ♦ Crowfoot  
 4Square and many more

Further information call 01636 816678 or visit [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk)

The programme tells the reader:  
 'The Gate to Southwell Dance Procession, Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Southwell, Nottinghamshire  
 Each year teams of Morris dancer's process in relays all the way from Nottingham City through some of the pretty Trent Valley villages to a final colourful rendezvous at Southwell Minster.'

Together, the Festival and dance procession muster hundreds of folk dancers representing a wide variety of different folk dance styles – (they don't all like to be called Morris!). This historic event played an important part in the building of the Minster and celebrates its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It can trace its origins back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas de Beverley, wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church. Each year at Whitsuntide representatives from all the county parishes would carry their contributions – known as the Southwell Pence – to Southwell. Records show much merriment ensued and Morris men were involved in the procession well into the 16<sup>th</sup> Century when it appears to have ceased. It was appropriate therefore that in 1981 local Morris men, Dolphin Morris, decided to revive this old Nottinghamshire custom'.



## The GATE TO southwell folk festival

The best in folk comes to Nottinghamshire!

Now in its third year, the Gate To Southwell Folk Festival is already established as one of the premier events in the Midlands folk calendar rivalling many longer established festivals. Saturday was a sell out last year so book early!

There's something for everyone - particularly families:

- A superb rural site on the edge of town
- 2 stages with under cover seating for Concerts & Ceilidhs
- On-site Camping ● Open Mic sessions ● Dance Displays
- Beer & Cider Festival (40+Real Ales and 10 ciders)
- Workshops for all ages ● Craft & Trade stalls
- Special Children's entertainment & activities
- Varied food outlets with a covered area for dining.



"Festivals come and go but I think this one is here to stay"  
Vin Garbutt.

### Around The Town

Open air concerts, Dance displays and street theatre will feature throughout the weekend at various venues around the town. These include the historic Saracens Head Hotel courtyard 1, the main Market Square adjacent to the Wheatsheaf Inn 2 and three other characterful pubs - The Old Coach House 3, The Hearty Goodfellow (fabulous pub garden) 4 and the Bramley Apple 5. These will offer a variety of music and dance and you can be sure of many impromptu music/song sessions. (See map on back page)

The impressive Minster will be the atmospheric stage for a lunchtime concert on Friday (so arrive early if you can) and the fascinating National Trust Workhouse will again host a variety of workshops and dance displays. Picturesque Southwell is an historic town with many interesting buildings, a heritage trail and excellent eateries and is well worth the short ten minute walk.



### Outline Concert Programme

**Friday**

- \* Eliza Carthy \* Lau \* Pete Morton
- \* 4Square \* Jackie Oates
- \* Steamchicken (Ceilidh)

**Saturday**

- \* Show of Hands \* Secouk Keita Quintet
- \* Maire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman
- \* Gwyneth Herbert \* Mawkin Causley
- \* Reg Meuross Band \* 4Square
- \* Flossie Malavialle & Keith Donnelly
- \* Jackie Oates \* Steamchicken (session)
- \* Hekety (Ceilidh)

**Sunday**

- \* Moonlighting: new 'supergroup' featuring Ciaran Tourish & Dermot Byrne (Altan), Michael McGoldrick, John Joe Kelly (Flook) and John Doyle (ex Solas)
- \* Martin Simpson Trio \* Wizz Jones
- \* Eric Bogle & John Munro
- \* Whaley & Fletcher \* Keith Donnelly
- \* Flossie Malavialle \* 4Square
- \* Crowfoot (Ceilidh & Concert)

In addition, over the weekend will be:

- \* John Richards Band \* Jenna \* Hex
- \* Martin Sumpton \* The Young Uns
- \* The Carrivick Sisters \* Barron Brady
- \* Stealing Sheep \* Becky Syson
- \* Tina Taylor \* Workshy Profits
- \* Nigel Beck \* The Old Dance School
- \* Doug Eunson & Sarah Matthews
- \* Ewan McClellan \* Acushla & more....

This is a guide only to assist booking. Actual timings will be published in the Official Programme at the event.

### Tickets

Tickets can be purchased in advance in 4 different ways:

- 1) Online at [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk)
- 2) By phone: Call Hyde-Barker Travel on 01636 816262
- 3) By completing the Booking Form below
- 4) Or by visiting one of the outlets listed on the back page

### Booking Form

Please write the quantity of each ticket type you require in the boxes provided. Make cheques/postal orders payable to The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival Limited. \*Family ticket applies to 2 adults and up to 2 youths 12-17 (under 12 years old free). Camping NOT included. Important Note: All youth tickets (inc. camping) are only available when bought with an accompanying adult ticket.

Ticket Type	Friday 5th June	Saturday 6th June	Sunday 7th June	Weekend (all 3 days)
Adult (18+) (before Apr 30)	£14	£24	£24	£53
Adult (18+) (from May 1)	£16	£27	£27	£60
Youth 12-17 (before Apr 30)	£6	£11	£11	£19
Youth 12-17 (from May 1)	£7	£13	£13	£22
Family* (before Apr 30)	£33	£55	£55	£110
Family* (from May 1)	£38	£63	£63	£128

### Weekend camping per person:

	Without Caravan or Trailer	Additional Premium per Caravan or Trailer	Total Cost
Adult	£10	£5	
Youth	£5	N/A	

**Block Capitals Please**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form together with your payment to:  
 Gate to Southwell Folk Festival, P.O. Box 9149, Newark, Notts. NG24 9DZ



Chris Deuchar designed the Gate badge and says, '2009. Inspiration often comes at the last minute - against all my best intentions! This year was no exception; so I thought a bit about what the procession was all about and the idea of indicating where the Southwell pence came from was born. The red dots are meant to indicate some of the major towns and parishes within Nottinghamshire (no – it's not a map of the Isle of Man - it really is Nottinghamshire!). I was struck for the first time just how close to the centre of the county that Southwell actually is. Previously I had thought of it stuck in the back of beyond over in the south-eastern corner - but it's not, it really is



*quite central.'*

On the day it rained continuously from the Council house to Sneinton. The Gate banner remained in Bob Hine's car because it was felt a heavy rain soaked banner was not ideal. This is the first time since 1983 that the banner has not headed the procession. The banner did come into play upon leaving the Cross Keys at Burton Joyce.

At Sneinton it was discovered that Gilbert Clarke was not present being too ill to attend and presently in a nursing home recuperating. This is the first Gate Gilbert has missed. Gilberts place (and the wearing of the top hat) was taken by Alan Childs who has been put on standby for the 2010 Gate.

*Hi all,*

*Just so you have an idea what we are doing for this year's Gate, I am attaching details with timings. (All timings are Morris Time).*

*Dave Walters, could you put a link with this on the Gate page on our web site, several people have contacted me about where we will be and when.*

*Cheers! Chris*

#### Gate 2009 Tours and Timetable

- Assemble at the Council House on Market Square Nottingham
- Lord Mayor welcomes the dancers and presents the Southwell Pence
- Procession leaves for Sneinton Hermitage Centre
- Arrive at Sneinton and have tea & biscuits – speech from Tom Huggon
- Procession leaves Sneinton to top of hill then on the bus to Burton Joyce
- Arrive at Burton Joyce and process to the Cross Keys Pub
- 10.30 – 11.30 Massed Dance display, then process to end of village, bus to lunch stop
- 12.00 Lunch stop at the Magna Charta and Railway Inn Lowdham
- Leave Lowdham
- 1,00 Black Horse, Caythorpe
- Reindeer and Marquis of Granby Hoveringham
- Coach & Horses, Thurgarton
- 3.15 Village Hall and Waggon & Horses Bleasby
- 4.00 Bromley Arms Fiskerton
- 4.50 Procession start from Easthorpe, Southwell
- 5.15 Southwell Pence are presented at the Minster
- 5.30 Short Service with dance in the Minster
- 6.00 Dancing at the Bramley Apple Southwell

*Chris Gigg emailed at the DMM,*

*'Hi, To all those coming to this year's Gate to Southwell. Dolphin will be the largest Cotswold team on this year's Gate. Joe O and Dave Gough will look after the bus and our guests, so that leaves us to enjoy ourselves and do some dancing. Feel free to support the pubs we call at, especially the Lunch stop. Dolphin will be dancing in the Minster along with Foresters, if they accept our invitation. Our dance will depend on what they are going to dance.*

*I would appreciate it if you could help from time to time by showing out guests where to go etc. and especially by getting the sides lined up at Easthorpe in this order.*

*Dolphin MM with Alan Halliday, Foresters, Greenwood Clog, Braybrooke Morris Maids of Clifton, Rattlejag, Stone Monkey - if there, Sallyport Sword - if there Yellowbelly Morris followed by the sides who have danced at the Festival site in any order they want.*

*When we get to the Minster Gate from the road, would a few of you help to get everyone as close to the North Gate as they can as quickly as they can so we can have them all watch the Southwell Pence being presented.*

*Then when that is done, get all willing into the Minster for the service. You could also help Dave W to give out hymn sheets.*

*If you have any questions, please drop me a line.*

*We have a few bus places spare if anyone else wants to come, this could include spouses etc. Because of the numbers attending, if all goes to plan, the day out, bus back, scone cream & cuppa, free pint of Springhead will cost you about £6.00. Cheers! Chris'*

***“Look here, if you do your job properly and no mess ups you can have a Gate badge OK?”***



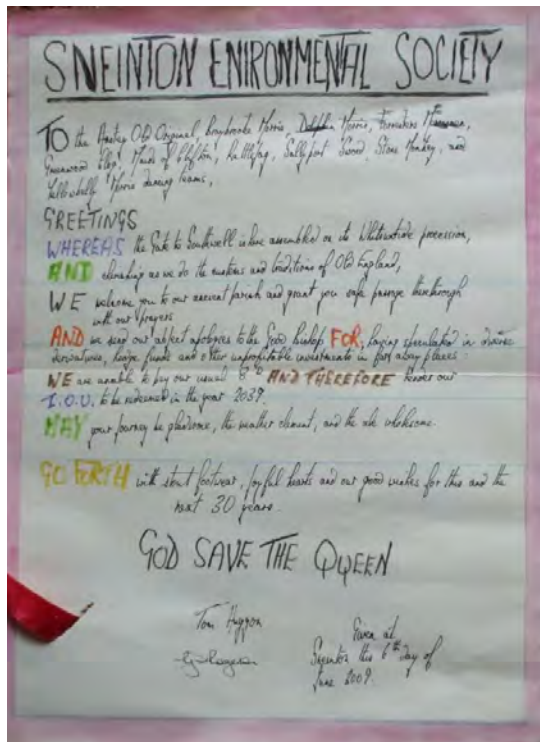


Mayor, Jeannie Packer, sees the Gate off but struggles to match the practiced prose of Bob Hine, and not wishing to buck the trend she declines to join in on horseback





Tom Huggon's 2009 proclamation from the red box went as follows;



## SNEINTON ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

TO the Anstey Old Original, Braybrooke Morris, Dolphin Morris, Foresters Morrismen, Greenwood Clog, Maids of Clifton, Rattlejag, Sallyport Sword, Stone Monkey and Yellowbelly Morris dancing teams,

### GREETINGS

WHEREAS the Gate to Southwell is here assembled on its Whitsuntide procession, AND cherishing as we do the customs and traditions of Old England WE welcome you to our ancient parish and grant you safe passage therethrough with our prayers AND we send our abject apologies to the good Bishop

FOR having speculated in diverse derivatives, hedge funds and other unprofitable investments in far away places: WE are unable to pay our usual 8d AND THEREFORE tender our I.O.U. to be redeemed in the year 2039  
MAY your journey be gladsome, the weather clement, and the ale wholesome.  
GO FORTH with stout footwear, joyful hearts and our good wishes for this and the next 30 years.           GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Signed Tom Huggon  
G Rogerson

Given at  
Sneinton this 6th day of June 2009

The accompanying I.O.U. referred to by Tom in the proclamation reads:

To the good Bishop from Sneinton We O.U. 8d to be redeemed in 2039

Signed Tom Huggon  
G Rogerson

Given at Sneinton  
6th June 2009

After the reading of the proclamation Andy Padmore of DMM presented Tom Huggon, (and Gilbert Clarke in absentia) with a framed photograph of Tom, Gilbert and Bob Hine at Sneinton at the Gate 2008 in recognition of being present at all 28 'Gates' from 1981 to 2008, a feat only those three have achieved. Ian Ambrose comes close but had to miss one 'Gate' in the early days.



The Gate procession accompanied by the Sneinton 'posse' moved through Sneinton to the bus for Burton Joyce.



Andy Padmore of DMM due to other commitments had to leave the procession at this point and so returned with the posse, and went to Tom Huggon's house for a sherry and discovered much about what happens at Sneinton before and after the procession arrives at Sneinton:

*'It transpires that the Sneinton group at the Gate have a tradition of their own. They go to Tom's house BEFORE the procession arrives and have a sherry to prepare them for the occasion. They then travel on foot by a set route to the Community Centre ringing the now traditional Gate bell and announcing to all, of the coming of the procession.*

*At the conclusion of the Sneinton stage of all return to Tom's house for more sherry (from a selection) and sometimes a visit to a pub for further refreshment. Their procession though short and only dating back to 1981 is done in the true spirit of the earliest 'Gates'; in their best robes and drinking at all times. Also while taking part in this 'secret' ceremony I discovered that the Sneinton Magazine commenced with issue one at the same time that the Gate started and carried a short article about the Gate. The magazine is edited by Gilbert Clarke and is currently at issue No 103. Almost all Gates have got a mention in the magazine and some carry photographs. These in due course will be scanned for DMM archive purposes. The Sneinton group between them have photographs of all the Gates and will assemble them for the DMM archive. There is also a painting (Lowry-esque) of the Gate assembled outside the Community Centre which shows all the 'dignitaries' and some of the Morris sides – it will be Photographed and a copy obtained for the DMM archive. The date of the painting is to be ascertained but is not known at this time.*

*Talking to everyone it seems that there is much Gate info to be gleaned and obtained from them and this will be done in due course'.*



Left: Andrew Mee of DMM on his first Gate to Southwell and seen here in a rare 'coffee' break moment. He reported in an email afterwards,

*'I thoroughly enjoyed my first Gate to Southwell, it was a grand day out, despite the damp start. I have no complaints, except the service in the pub at Lowdham was, frankly, bloody appalling, and did affect our plan as at least 2 of our number were still waiting for sustenance when we needed to dance. Apart from that a fabulous day out. I thought Bob's speech(s) were eloquence and wit personified, I thought the middle aged gent at Sneinton [Tom Huggon] was a star. All in all, wonderful. I am looking forward to next year. Cheers, Andrew'*

Bob Hine wrote:

*'Dear Chris, Thanks for another brilliant Gate to Southwell. As ever, your organisation worked extremely smoothly. Finishing at the Bramley felt good. I hope that the collectors made loads of cash - they certainly put some effort into it. Cheers, Bob'*

Chris Gigg wrote:

*'Hi all, We had a good one despite the wet weather at the start. To those who missed it, we had a good time with friends new and old and were easily the best dancing side there.*

*Special thanks to...*

*Bob for the research and speeches*

*Nick for rushing down to Southwell to play for us*

*Dave G and Joe for organising the buses and dancing*

*Dave W and Clive for bag and swag duties*

*We made a small profit as well!*

*See you all Thursday, Chris '*

The procession reaches Southwell and is joined by a few dancers from the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival including The Outside Capering Crew, Lord Conyers Morris Men and at least one member of Handsworth Sword (more came later)





Mike Wilkinson (Squire of DMM as well as Fule and newsletter writer, occasional musician and dance teacher) wrote in an email after the Gate:

*'Gents, After a damp and uninspiring start, what a great day it turned out to be. Dolphin did more actual dancing than usual. I think we danced at The Cross Keys, The Railway (I missed this one as I was still awaiting my chip cob), The Black Horse, Bleasby Village Hall, The Bromley Arms and of course the Bramley. Often in the past I have gone for a whole Gate with only the one dance at the Cross keys.*

*The joint set (3 Dolphins and 3 Foresters) in the Minster was a nice idea that worked well. Bob's speech at the Council House was a tour de force. (Assuming that that means what I think it does. If it means a long distance bike race then I meant something else.) Andy did a nice presentation to Tom (and the absent Gilbert) at Sneinton. Well done to everyone who contributed to making it not only a good Gate, but also a good Dolphin day out. Special thanks to Bob, for inventing it, and to Chris for organising it. Oh, and to Ian Ambrose for carrying the cross. I imagine the Minster has a broom cupboard with 29 of those crosses in it now? Or do they give it back each year? Mike*



Chris Gigg informed everyone:

*Hi all, I am writing to let you know that the Charity Help for Heroes has benefited by over £500 from the collection made on the day.*

*Thanks to all of you for coming along and helping. A special mention for Ken Bramman of Foresters MM who collected a massive £ 143.00 on his own.*

*Best wishes, Chris Gigg, Dolphin MM*

Mike plays his stick tricks on the next generation at the Bramley Apple



The June 2009 DMM newsletter 'Spout' written by Mike Wilkinson recorded:

*'This year's Gate was to Southwell: a small town on the right hand side of Nottinghamshire, well known locally for its apple trees and a particularly impressive church which I estimate goes back a good 900 years.'*

*A damp start, with speeches under the shelter of the Council House porch. Bob's speech was excellent, delivered with panache, and peppered with topical satire. The Lord Mayor's reply was less so.*

*Then we walked in waterproofs, and sheltered by brollies, all the way to Sneinton Hermitage, with little or no dancing on the way. A few of the musicians put on a bit of a show, with accordionist Eric Foxley fumbling away under his bicycle cape like a pervert at a unisex hair salon.*

*For the first time that I can remember, the speeches at the Hermitage were indoors. Tom Huggon was on fine form. Unfortunately, Gilbert had been taken ill and was unable to attend. Andy P. Presented Tom with a framed photo, and there was one for him to give to Gilbert too, although I did notice it on eBay the next morning. The photos showed Tom, Gilbert and Bob, who are believed to be the only three people to have attended every Gate up until last year. Andy also took the opportunity to ask for contributions to his archive and book about the history of the gate.*

*As usual, Tom walked us up the long hill to where we met the buses. It would be an exaggeration to suggest that the happy people of Sneinton thronged the streets and strewed rose petals in our path, but at least no one in the procession was run over.*

*The dance spot at The Cross Keys was a little low key, with a small crowd, but by now the weather was starting to clear. By the Railway, it was much improved, and there was spontaneous dancing outside, except for Ian and I who were irritably awaiting our chip cobs inside.*

*We danced again at The Black Horse, and again at The Coach and Horses, and then at the WI hall in Bleasby. This is more Dolphin dancing than I can recall for several Gates. It gets the philosophers asking, not how many angels can dance on a pin, but how many Dolphins can dance on a Gate? We danced again at Fiskerton, and after the official part of the day, at the Bramley Apple. I didn't count up, but I guess we must have done around ten dances in the day, which is comparable to a "normal" day of dance.*

*Plan A for the Minster was for Dolphin to do a dance and Foresters to do one too. However, Foresters were short handed, so we agreed to do a three and three set: three Dolphins (Chris, Bob and Ian A.) on the old man's side, three Foresters as the young men, and Ken smiling benignly as I Fooled in the set. Eric Foxley played the music – one of only a couple of piano accordionists whom I've heard playing well for Cotswold. (The other is Michael Blandford.) I think the dance went really well, except for when I bumped into Chris as I Fooled behind him. All in all, an excellent day, and I think the most enjoyable Gate for years. It was fantastic to have a side of Dolphins sticking together as a unit instead of being distributed across most of the 20 miles. Special thanks to Bob for inventing it; Chris for perpetuating it; and Ian for carrying the cross.'*

**Handsworth Sword booked for the Festival seen down at The Bramley Apple**



**Tight security arranged for Southwell Pence board**



**Braybrooke Morris wrote on their website:**

**Sunday, 7 June 2009**

**[Gate to Southwell](#)**

Yesterday we joined other dance sides for the 29th Gate to Southwell, ably organised by Chris Gigg of Dolphin Morris Men. We assembled in the rain in the Old Market Square, Nottingham, and then processed with umbrellas to Sneinton, where we were welcomed and given safe passage through the parish, to buses, which took us to various venues (for which read "pubs") on the way to Southwell, where we had a service in the gorgeous Norman Minster.

The Gate to Southwell was revived in 1981 by Dolphin, following on from an ancient Whitsuntide procession to Southwell, in which members of parishes took their annual contributions to the Minster. Apparently it is recorded in a letter to the Minster, in 1109, as an ancient happening, so this year may well be the 900th Gate.

The Gate is an excellent chance to meet and see other sides, and to see other sides dance things that we dance, but not quite in the same way. There are also plenty of places where people gather to watch, so it is also an excellent chance to dance in public.

Our thanks to Steve [Tunnickliff] and Liz [Pearce] from New St George, who played for us at the Gate.

Foresters Morris Men website revealed: **Squires Report 2009**

The Gate to Southwell was a piece of cake compared to most years and involved very little walking. Joe (Earp) presented the purse, and I have to point out that this may be a bit short next year because of Nottingham's £42m investment in Icelandic banks. The weather was generally poor during the whole summer, but it was abysmal at Swanage!

The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival website informs:

**The Gate to Southwell Procession**

Each year teams of Morris dancers dance in relays all the way from Nottingham City through some of the pretty Trent Valley villages to a final colourful rendezvous at Southwell Minster.

Together, the Festival and Dance Procession muster hundreds of folk dancers representing a wide variety of different folk dance styles - (they don't all like to be called Morris!).

This historic event played an important part in the building of the Minster and can trace its origins back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas de Beverley wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church for the County. Each year at Whitsuntide Nottingham's Mayor and representatives from each parish in the county would carry their contributions - known as The Southwell Pence - to Southwell.



Records show much merriment ensued and Morris Men were involved in the procession well into the 16th century when it appears to have ceased. It was appropriate therefore that in 1981 local Morris men, Dolphin Morris decided to revive this old Nottinghamshire custom.

### More images from the 2009 Gate to Southwell



Sallyport Sword

Maids at the The Bramley Apple



Musicians discuss chord structures and playing for processions









29 gates completed  
-Next one the big 30



## **CHAPTER THIRTY ONE**

**2010  
30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY GATE**

2010 will see the Gate reaching the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its revival. It is an anniversary that was never in the minds of the organizer in the heady days of 1980 when the plan was being put together and people still had to be convinced that it was going to be a viable event to put on. It is the enthusiasm and unstinting dedication from a few stalwart members of DMM to the Gate that has kept it going.

It is undoubtedly down to the vision of Bob Hine who found a simple reference or two in the Borough Transcripts of Nottingham that gave the revival the wings to get off the ground in the first place.

Thirty years on, Bob is still there, and although he has passed on the mantle of organizer to the indefatigable Chris Gigg, he still exerts a presence that the Gate would be a poorer place without.

11<sup>th</sup> June                      30<sup>th</sup> Gate to Southwell and 4<sup>th</sup> Gate to Southwell Folk Festival

**Dance Displays and Ceilidhs:**  
On the festival site and around the town, dance displays will feature a wide variety of folk dance styles, (they don't all like to be called Morris!)

**Dance sides confirmed so far:**  
• Rattlejag Morris • Pecsætan Morris • Chinwude, • Flag and Bone Gang • Well Heeled • Dukes Dandy, • Rhubarb Tarts • Hereburgh Morris • Poacher Morris • Raving Maes • Rapper Rascals • Bourne Borderers.

**Ceilidhs:**  
Following the huge success of our previous events, we now have a much larger ceilidh tent. Some ceilidhs will be well suited to families and children and we again feature several top ceilidh bands including:

**Peeping Tom** - "Veteran folk rock band with all the riffs and reels, combining traditional folk dance music with a modern high energy rhythmic approach to produce their own unique style". (Appearing Friday - caller Hugh Rippon)

**The Cock and Bull Band** - "Top ceilidh and barn dance band for over 20 years, playing both brilliant, stomping dance music and entrancing concert material". (Appearing Saturday and Sunday - caller Jo Freya)

**The QP** - 7 young, talented musicians playing a stunning blend of folk, jazz, funk, rock and blues. "It's folk without a safety net". (Appearing Sunday - caller Liam Robinson)

**The Gate To Southwell Dance Procession**  
**Sat 12th June Southwell, Nottinghamshire**

Each year teams of morris dancers process from Nottingham city through some of the pretty Trent Valley villages to a final colourful rendezvous at Southwell Minster (at approx. 4.30pm). This historic event played an important part in the building of the minster. It can trace its origins back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas de Beverley, wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church. Each year at Whitsuntide representatives from all the county parishes would carry their contributions - known as The Southwell Pence - to Southwell. Much merriment ensued and morris men were involved well into the 16th century. It was appropriate therefore that in 1981 local morris men, Dolphin Morris, decided to revive this old Nottinghamshire custom. For more information visit [www.dolphin-morris.co.uk](http://www.dolphin-morris.co.uk) or call 01509 673322.

Together, the Festival and Dance Procession muster hundreds of folk dancers representing a wide variety of different folk dance styles - truly spectacular!



**How to find us**  
Our venue is adjacent to The National Trust's Workhouse in Southwell, Nottinghamshire (NG25 0PT). Situated 13 miles from Nottingham on the A612 and 8 miles from Newark on the A617 and A612.

Once in Southwell, follow signs for the Workhouse & The Racecourse.



**Travel and info links**  
You can find details of train and bus services and times from: Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk)

**By Train:**  
Alight at Fiskerton station then catch the no 29 bus to Southwell and get off near the Old Coach House pub (Easthorpe stop).

**Caravans**  
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The Gate to Southwell Folk Festival would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters:





**the gate to southwell folk festival**  
**2010**

**10th-13th June**  
**Southwell, Nottinghamshire**

*An Exciting Weekend of the Best in Folk Music & Dance*

**Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain**  
**4 Men and a Dog**  
**Demon Barber Roadshow**

**Julie Fowlis ♦ Vin Garbutt**  
**Tom McConville Big Band ♦ Rory McLeod**

**Benny Gallagher ♦ Wheeler Street**  
**Megson ♦ John Smith ♦ Clive Carroll**  
**Flossie Malaviale ♦ Keith Donnelly**  
**Jez Lowe and Kate Bramley**  
**Cockersdale ♦ Ben & Joe Broughton**  
**The QP ♦ Dynamos Rhythm Aces**  
**Kimbers Men ♦ Mick Ryan & Paul Downes**  
**and many more (see inside)**



Further information call 01636 816678 or visit [www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.southwellfolkfestival.org.uk)

Dancing sides are not yet finalized.

What the 2010 Gate Folk Festival programme says about the procession:

## The Gate To Southwell Dance Procession Sat 12th June Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Each year teams of morris dancers process from Nottingham city through some of the pretty Trent Valley villages to a final colourful rendezvous at Southwell Minster (at approx. 4.30pm). This historic event played an important part in the building of the minster. It can trace its origins back to 1109 when the Archbishop of York, Thomas de Beverley, wrote to every parish in Nottinghamshire asking them to contribute to the building of a new Mother Church. Each year at Whitsuntide representatives from all the county parishes would carry their contributions - known as The Southwell Pence - to Southwell. Much merriment ensued and morris men were involved well into the 16th century. It was appropriate therefore that in 1981 local morris men, Dolphin Morris, decided to revive this old Nottinghamshire custom. For more information visit [www.dolphin-morris.co.uk](http://www.dolphin-morris.co.uk) or call 01509 673322.

Together, the Festival and Dance Procession muster hundreds of folk dancers representing a wide variety of different folk dance styles - truly spectacular!



An undated snippet from the Black Pig web site...

*'One year on the Gate to Southwell the gentlemen in the side did a full moon at a pub called the Full Moon and suffered the Landlords displeasure.'*

Chris Deuchar says, *'The pub staff were unbelievably stuffy, so someone came up with the idea... Children were discreetly removed from a corner of the beer garden and other adults were engaged as 'minders'/guardians so the whole process could be done without anyone noticing. Even the landlord did not know until later and it was all over.'*

Kevin Wragg says, *'The "full moon" at The Full Moon I do remember, my own rather spotty bum was presented along with the other chaps from the Pigs - I was informed of the Landlord's displeasure later'*.



And that brings the story of the Gate to Southwell to a fitting end!