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INTRODUCTION TO BOOK TWO

Dolphin Morris Men were now into their second decade; a decade that, at the start, no one would have thought the side would survive to see. The legacy that Colin Shaw began was going strong, the men were getting older and more settled, and the Dolphin was now established as a serious Morris Dancing side.

Bob Hine was starting to develop his profile, and would soon be taking over as Bagman. Along side his role as an officer Bob was also getting down to a bit of local research into Nottinghamshire's Morris history. Bob's discoveries would result in the siting of a plaque to commemorate a side of dancers from the early seventeenth century and an annual procession walking and dancing from Nottingham to Southwell. Before either of these achievements Bob, in 1980, produced a booklet entitled, 'The Dolphin Guide to Local Villages & Dances' in which he described the villages that Dolphin would dance at together with any references to dancing that he had discovered in his researches. It was the research for that booklet that yielded the Morris references which would put the Dolphin Morris Men firmly on the Morris map of Nottinghamshire.

Ian Stewart was overseeing the dance style and direction, while others were doing some of the actual teaching. Ian continued to monitor and direct proceedings while also being the main musician, as well as finding time to teach. With Ian's finger on the pulse Dolphin would maintain their traditional approach to dancing.

While on the one hand the side were making Morris history, on the other it was failing to record many of the events that happened. Many photo opportunities were missed and many documents were not saved.

The main thing though was that the side were still in business, and what no one could foresee at that time had, at least, another thirty years of dancing left in them.

ANDY PADMORE

CHAPTER ELEVEN

1978 - Ten years old and still going strong

1978 was the year when Dolphin appeared on the cover of a 'Whats On' guide called 'Welcome to the English Shires'. The publication sold for 40p; covered Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire and nowhere did it mention Dolphin by name, and no one asked permission to use the image. How rude! And where was it taken?



At the beginning of January 1978 Ian Stewart prepared some notes on practice. Ian basically 'had a go' at the older dancers who had had poor attendance and who were not up to date with the current teaching practices. This lack of up to date practice meant that there were sometime two distinct styles and the older men were dancing as they had always done. The younger men had learned the 'new' ways and differences were sometimes evident. Later in the notes Ian points out that, *'if you can't be bothered to practice in the winter as well, then you should forget it' – and take up stamp-collecting, which is a lot easier going*'. Evidence is not available how many stamp collectors started as a result of dancing the Morris!

Dolphin celebrated the 10th Anniversary with a Feast on Saturday 21st January 1978. The daytime was taken up by an instructional at Kingston Village Hall by David Welti, Squire of the Morris Ring. For such a landmark occasion no information has survived other than the date.

On Saturday 18th March 1978 the Dolphin Morris Men arranged a ladies night. The daytime was taken up by an instructional at Kingston village hall led by Bert Cleaver. As with the feast in January no information has survived

Carlton Morris Men held an ale/feast on Sunday 2nd April 1978 at The Test Match in West Bridgford. Dolphin sent along three men to join sides from Packington, Foresters and Derby Morris Men. Chris Deuchar (then 'Bates') recalls *'The pub 'regulars' appeared to be completely bemused by it all'*.

Andy Padmore recalls, *'Being Squire I would have made some sort of a speech, but I have no recall whatsoever. I do remember going to the pub sometime though!'*

Pete Waller; Carlton's main musician at that time, had this to say when approached, *'Do you know I have absolutely no recollection of a feast at the Test Match at West Bridgford'*.

On Saturday 22nd April 1978 Dolphin were once again fundraising in the Lister Gate area of Nottingham.



Saturday 20th May 1978 was the Derby Morris Men day of dance. Dolphin were on tour 'E' and out with Chapel-en-le-Frith Morris Men.

Performances were at; Bakewell, The Crown Inn, Wensley; Parkhead, Matlock; Crich Market Place, and The Thorn Tree Hotel at Ripley. Returning later in the day to Derby for a procession and massed display in the Market Place.

Dolphin performed in the Old Market Square on Saturday 17th June 1978 at the Nottingham Festival.

Dolphin's Annual Day of Dancing was arranged for Sunday 24th June 1978. The usual format for such days was dance spots which included:

Kingston-upon-Soar Village Green, Marle-Pit Corner, Outside 'Sutton Gardens', Outside Pasture Lane Stores, The King's Head, The Paddocks, lunch at The Anchor, The White House, The Malt Shovel.

Terry Palings itinerary points out that, *'We have a side for the first stop IF everybody turns up on time!'* [Timekeeping was always a Dolphin problem]

The day finished at an NTMC ceilidh.

On the weekend of 7th-9th July 1978 Dolphin attended their second Greensleeves 'Chipperfield' event. Guest teams included, Yateley Morris Men, Keele Rapper, and of course Dolphin.

Velo Club Europa



It was Mid July 1978 when Dolphin were booked to dance at a joint Raleigh Cycles and Velo Club Europa event held on the Forest Recreation Ground. A letter from the organiser suggests that poor publicity caused a poor attendance but Dolphin were paid their fee so all was well. Martin Morley's boss at Raleigh Industries provided the invitation to dance and Martin remembers seeing a video of Dolphin dancing, but there was no way of getting a copy at that time and the whereabouts of the video are now not known.



In August 1978 the Leicester Morris Men visited Krefeld in Germany, a town twinned with the City of Leicester. A few Dolphin Men went along to bulk up the numbers. The two teams had close links in those days and shared a few members.



Wikipedia says: *Krefeld is a city in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is located southwest of the Ruhr area, its center just a few kilometres to the west of the River Rhine. It is not far from Holland and the area around Krefeld is rather flat and contains many backwaters left by the Rhine when it altered its course.*

Below: the men are dancing to while away the 'voyage' over the channel. Ian Ambrose can be seen raising his arms above Iain Anderson. Iain (Jethro) at this time was a member of both sides having joined Dolphin in 1975.



Above: Look carefully and Ian Ambrose, Bob Hine and Phil Wrigley can be seen among the Leicester Men and the hosts on the steps of the Council House.

Bob Hine remembering the trip says, *'We went by bus eventually landing up at Krefeld town hall. The twinning organisers met us and there was quite a crowd of Krefeld families who had agreed to host their Leicester visitors. One by one our names were called out and in turn each dancer was introduced to the family who were to be his hosts for the weekend. I remember seeing John Bentham going off with a happy family group. Meantime, the number of Krefelder's declined more rapidly than the Morris men waiting for lodgings until eventually there were a few of us left with no homes to go to. Don't worry, said the organiser, we've got somewhere for you and off we were driven ... to a pub! Make yourselves at home said mine host - anytime you want a drink just go down to the bar and help yourself! Needless to say, we had a brilliant time. It was my first visit to Germany and I was very impressed at how welcoming and generous the locals were. I was impressed with the German beer too: it was the first time I had been drunk twice in one day, and no hangover afterwards. That must say something about the beer purity laws. Later in the weekend I was talking to John Bentham and asked him how he was getting on with his hosts - OK he said but it's a bit difficult as they are strong teetotallers, so there's not a drop of drink in the house. He was a bit miffed to hear about our accommodation!'*



Translated from the German the caption to the photograph said : ***Finger-hooking in the Council House***

[Fingerhakeln im Rathaus]

Protocol went out of the window right away. The "Leicester Morris men", folk dancers from Krefeld's British twin town, immediately felt at home in the Session Room of the Council House. Instead of long speeches, they went straight into a "taster" of their repertoire of Southern English ancient dances, for which they'd already got an enthusiastic response at the

folklore festival on Saturday. Their Krefeld hosts, the "Edelweiss Alp Society", will, what's more, very shortly return the visit and export Bavarian customs to Leicester. Perhaps even "finger hooking", at which (in our picture) an Englishman (left) tests his strength with a Bavarian in the Council House.

The Leicester Mercury on Friday 18th August 1978 carried an article which read,

'A group of Leicester Morris Men were dancing on their way to Germany this morning. The 25 strong Leicester Morris Men found a captive audience on board the ferry from Dover to Ostende when they gave a display of Morris Dancing to while away the time.

They were on their way to Leicester's twin town of Krefeld where they are taking part in an international folk dancing exhibition.

The Morris Men are dancing in Krefeld's High Street tomorrow before the exhibition which has attracted folk dancers from all over the world.

On Sunday they are being entertained at a civic reception followed by a guided tour of Krefeld.



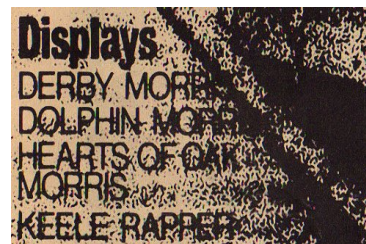
Above: Civic Reception, Phil Wrigley shows a German how to hold a Morris stick.



*Above: Ian Ambrose enjoys a progressive country dance with... Sue Grimes
Sue Grimes (now Burnett) recalls that, 'The picture was taken at a ceilidh at Leicester Guildhall that Leicester Morris organised when the Krefeld crowd came here. I can't remember who the band were – probably Flash Packet – or who helped me translate the calling'.*

On Saturday 2nd September 1978 Dolphin were one of the display sides at the 'Ilam Festival of Folk Music, Arts and Crafts'.

Folk News carried the Festival as its cover design.



Dolphin Morris Men were joined by, Derby Morris Men and Hearts of Oak Morris Men plus Keele Rapper dancers.

Saturday 16th September 1978 and Dolphin were at 'Hychel House' for an 'Anglo-Continental' Festival & Roast. Another opportunity for the side to represent English culture: while helping to raise cash for, The Nottinghamshire Breast Cancer Screening Unit, the Mayor of Rushcliffe's chosen charity. Two dance spots were required from the side.

Derby Morris Men held their annual feast on Saturday October 7th at Kirk Hallam Junior School. As was often the way in those days two representatives were invited to attend and Ian Stewart went along with another from Dolphin although the second representative was not recorded. Ian Stewart in one of his lucid moments said, '*I guess history makes it clear that I was one of the people who went to the Derby MM Feast at Kirk Hallam*' Ian then adds, '*In fact I don't have the slightest memory of being there myself*'.

An information sheet, dated Thursday 31st August 1978 from Ian Stewart, gives agenda details for the AGM which will be on September 28th 1978. The sheet also points out that, '*on Thursday 21st we will be doing a booking (assuming there will be a side available)*'. There are no details available to suggest what the booking was or if, in the event, there was a side, and it remains a mystery.

The AGM agenda shows that under 'any other business' item a. 'desirability of 2-stop tours' and under item e. 'Need for "front man"/fool/rebuilt Marigold'.

Ian Stewart's 1978/79 Squire's report informs us that, to his recollection, only one tour turned out with less than two full sides plus musician. Ian goes on to say that the only damper to be put on the tours was that caused by the weather and that, '*it was by far the worst season of Thursday night weather in Dolphin's history*'. Apparently mention had been made during the dancing season of a certain apathy setting in. Ian pointed out that this was a '*psychological fact of life*'. Ian's theory was that smaller teams with fewer men will get a dancing set up much quicker because the men feel the pressure to dance more acutely than a large team. A large team with a good turnout of men allows each man the chance to be less keen to get into set and so it can seem like apathy, Ian saw this as a 'non-problem'.

Ian continued by mentioning the Greensleeves weekend as being, '*as good a do as the previous year*', although it appears that rain again put a bit of a damper on the Saturday tour. Broad Marsh fundraising got a mention as it, 'broke the record for financial take', and the Nottingham Festival show in the Market Square was particularly good.

Ian mentioned the Feast which '*went well, and maintained our reputation for free booze*'. The Ladies night had been '*a bit more problematical*', as the bar had arrived late. The Christmas Social went down better than last year's first attempt because of M.C. John Sweeney being in charge.

Ian finished with some thoughts for the coming year: Continue with Longborough as the show tradition; forget two stop pub tours and go back to 'three stoppers'; cancel Ladies nights altogether; sort out a fool or fools; go ahead with planning for the next Dolphin ring meeting.

Two-stop versus three-stop pub tours would prove to be a regular item for discussion and Ian Stewart would always come out on the side of three-stop tours.

A note in the archive shows that 'Marigold' the 'budgerigar-like' Dolphin animal was taken for repair/re-modelling to Fox's Fibreglass Co. of Ollerton by Shaw Enterprises

Ltd (John Shaw of Toton). The total cost came to a staggering £10, being £4 for materials and £6 for cloth (4 metres). There was no charge for labour.

Regarding the need for a fool or front man, photographs over the next few years show John Whitelaw (Wib) wearing his blue smock with hand stitched 'smocking' in the traditional Gloucestershire style, and it appears that it was John who took over the mantle of the fool/character. Ted Hutchby was also a side member and at some time Ted would take over from Wib as the fool/announcer for Dolphin. Unfortunately there is a dearth of photographs for the period in question and it is not possible to say with any certainty when any changes might have taken place.

At the 1979 AGM both Ian Stewart and Terry Paling give mention, coupled with praise, for Wib's fooling during the previous year.

Saturday 16th December 1978 was the annual pre-Christmas fundraising dance out in Lister Gate. Nottingham Forest were playing at home to Birmingham City, and although the Police did not object to the dancing going ahead they suggested: '*you avoid dancing for the short period when you see football supporters passing through on their way to the match*'. Records show that the side made a donation of £15 to the Police Benevolent Fund.

Thursday 21st December 1978 and John Sweeney once again organised the '*Grand Christmas social*' which would include, '*food, drink, films on the sex life of the Dolphin, raffle, dubious games and home-brew beer tasting*'. Roy Dyson had also expressed an interest in producing a pantomime! [No pantomime was produced]

Information to hand suggests that new members in 1978 included Dave Ledsam and Alan Muhr plus Nigel Farmer, Graham Nicholson, Colin Seaton, Nick Smith, and Ian Rowlands.

CHAPTER TWELVE

1979 and not a Ring Meeting did we attend

1979 was not a good year when it came to attending weekend events. There appears to have been a certain apathy about ticking the events lists. Ian Stewart in his Squires report of September 1979 points out, *'Since Dolphin were founded, not a year, until this past season, had gone by without our being to at least one Ring Meeting, if not more, plus various weekends of dance etc'*.

Ian goes on to say, *'This past season, all we could drum up was a visit to Derby Day of Dance, and not even a whole side went to that'*.

Ian added, *'While I'm at it, I'll mention also that while most of the side had favoured the idea of a Sutton Bonington day, it was a struggle to get enough men to actually run it (good on you, those who did come)'*.

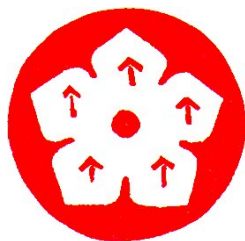
It had become something of a tradition for the Squire to write a 'rude letter' to the men. This letter would be sent at the beginning of the year and point out problems with attendance, timing, apathy, dissatisfaction etc. 1979 almost made it without one but Ian was moved to put typewriter key to paper, because, *'the turnout at this past Thursday's practice was so bloody abysmal that I've decided to write the letter anyway'*.

Ian accepted that the injury and illness rate had been particularly unlucky, he also accepted that some members had been *'quite heavily loaded'* with work. Ian did wonder though, *'does the work have to be done on a Thursday night this year if it didn't last year?'*

Ian then conceded, *'however, the low and late turnout must mean mainly that people are either pissed-off with practices or else think they know it all, so can just give up coming until the dancing out season starts'*.

The letter continues in the same vein and finishes with, *'all written or spoken responses to this letter – including calls to resign or bugger-off, will be received with interest'*. Quite Rude and to the point but intended to shake the men out of their apparent 'slough of despond'.

In the event 1979 did not implode and one or two things did get done. A full compliment of fourteen Thursday night tours was arranged and all appear to have gone off OK and were, *'well attended'*.



Leicester Morris Men put on their annual Feast on Saturday 3rd February 1979 and at least eight Dolphins attended. The venue was The Miners' Institute at Markfield. £2.50p covered all the food and ale.

Saturday 21st April 1979 and Dolphin Morris Men were to be found outside The Broad Marsh Centre on the first of their twice yearly fundraising days out in this location. Almost £142 was raised which would have put a smile on the face of Bagman Terry Paling, for a short time at least.

In the evening four of the Dolphins attended the Foresters Morris Men's Feast at Woodborough village hall and again £2.50p included the ale.

On Saturday 5th May 1979 Dolphin performed at the annual May Day celebrations at Arnold, an event organised by Bendigo's Folk Club but mainly by Idwal Jones, Squire of The 'Owd 'Oss Mummings. The event raised £150 towards an orthopaedic lift at Goodwood Old Peoples home.



Saturday 23rd June 1979 and Dolphin attended a day of dance organised by The Derby Morris Men. The six men who attended were, Dave Timms, Pat Tribensee, Ian Stewart, Alan Muhr, Bob Hine, and Phil Wrigley. Meeting at The Foresters, Borrowash the day was spent at Melbourne, Barrow and Belper. The evening meal, and more dancing, was at Quarndon Village Hall.

Whitchurch Morris Men organised their annual weekend of dance from July 6th – 8th 1979. Dolphin, originally agreed to go and, were booked in. At almost the last minute Terry Paling had to write 'a very embarrassing letter' because those who had said 'yes' were unable to attend. Terry lists this as one of two major disappointments of the year. The other was the 'loss of Marigold'. [Marigold was stolen whilst on a Thursday night pub tour, at The Rancliffe Arms at Bunney on June 14th]

Expo 79 Steam, Transport & Country Fair

25 26 27 August 1979



Jointly Promoted by the East of England Agricultural Society
and the Peterborough Evening Telegraph.

at the EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 0XE. Tel: (0733) 234451



Once more Dolphin were booked to perform at the Annual August Bank Holiday Expo Fair in 1979

1979 was to see a change in format. A 'Folk Show' was being organised by the EFDSS to include dancing teams of all persuasions, plus song spots.

Left: Terry took his wooden flat pack shed with him and can be seen here double checking that he has all the pieces, and that the frame is connected properly.

The Flash Packet Ceilidh Band had various members of Dolphin Morris among its line-up including Pete Bradley and Terry Paling. Roy Dyson would often call for the dances. On September 6th 1979 the band celebrated its 100th booking. The location of



the ceilidh was Plumtree Hall in Eastwood, a venue that the band often performed at for the PTA of the local Comprehensive School where Roy Dyson worked. At this 100th ceilidh several extra Dolphins' joined the band and in the photograph above Martin Morley and Dave Ledsam (standing) are on the left, Terry Paling in the middle waving to the camera, standing to the right is Roy Dyson with Steve Jowett sitting next to him, and Sid Long is behind Ian Stewart (who is wearing the black T-shirt). Ian has borrowed an electric bass an instrument he enjoys playing whenever he gets the chance.



The 'off duty' Dolphin Men, seen above using drumsticks and wearing one bell-pad each, performed impromptu dances. Ian Stewart is playing for the following men, Roy Dyson, Steve Jowett, Terry Paling, Iain 'Jethro' Anderson, Sid Long and Martin Morley.



The wives of Dolphin. From left to right: Lynn Anderson, Celia Dyson and Marje Paling. They were members of Greenwood Clog Dancers, and performed an impromptu dance at the ceilidh, with Martin Morley, Dave Ledsam and Iain Anderson forming the band.

On Saturday 8th September 1979 Dolphin's Ian Ambrose married Gill at Maghull Chapel (north of Liverpool).



Left: Ian with, his best Man, Ted Hutchby. Merely shaking hands for the photograph or Are they secretly practicing for the dance?

AND HOW D'YE DO SIR!!

Right: Here are the happy couple with their traditional guard of honour made up of Dolphin Men and a Hartley Man from Ian's first team.



The reception was held at Ince Blundell Village Hall and John Whitelaw recalls that, 'On the way to the reception

(or was it the church?) Ted took us on several circular tours of ONE traffic island much to the confusion of the dozen or so cars following'.

Andy Siddons recalls that he woke up the following morning draped over a chair still in Morris kit! (must have been something he ate!)

Sunday 9th September 1979 and Dolphin visited Keyworth and danced for the Society for Underprivileged Children of Great Britain, at a party, for some of the children. The letter of request points out that, *'There will be plenty of beer for you to drink, and I am sure that Mr Gibson will entertain you regarding food also'*. It was a long drive from Liverpool but sometimes a man must put such difficulties behind him...

Thursday September 27th 1979 was the date of the AGM. Ian Stewart remained as Squire of the side and Bob Hine took over from Terry Paling, as Bagman.

Ian Stewart's Squires report, while pointing out the sides disappointing record of weekend events, did have some positive things to say about the year:

'For most of the season, practices were well attended'

'I thought practices were pretty good all in all, with everyone working hard'

'Thursday tours, again these were well attended'

'Dancing was good as always'

'A word is due to John Whitelaw for his appearance as the fool, a job which he has 'ad infinitum' if he wants it'

'I was glad to see Marigold out'

'One thing I was glad to see, there was a lot of music (even singing sometimes!).'

'We broke the record for "take" at Both Broad Marsh stops'

(Dec 1978 £107.06, Apr 1979 £141.91)

In relation to functions Ian had this to say:

'The omission of the Ladies night proved to be a good decision, and the social has now firmly replaced this, I guess, in Dolphin's calendar. Many thanks, to all the home-brewers, nosh-makers, and of course to our inimitable MC John Sweeney, for their contributions to the social. The feast went nicely too in a quiet way (and considering some of the things that happened at the previous year's feast, maybe the extra quietness wasn't out of place) – thanks here is due to Roy and all the other snow-shovellers'.

Terry Paling in his final Bagmans report remembers,

'The better dressing room spirit, and the after tour/practice sessions in the pubs, Wibs fooling (he and Wocko interacted very well at Peterborough), and I thought that the Xmas social was well worth another repeat'.

November 24th 1979 and Dolphin were once more dancing, for the sides coffers, outside the Broad Marsh Centre on Lister Gate. The collection broke all records with a staggering £182.69½ p.

A diligent Police Officer held up proceedings to examine the collection permit but despite this Bob Hine wrote in the Dolphin newsletter dated 29th November that he *'believes that in excess of 10,000 people watched and 2000 contributed to the collection which included: '5 pesetas, 2 tokens, 2 live matches, 1 Tune and 1 Coop stamp'*.



Above: *Pete Bradley new to Dolphin in 1979 and a smiling Wib in his smock*



Above: *Stephen Gee is providing the music on his accordion and a few shoppers are braving the cold to stand and watch.*

Thursday 20th December 1979 and 'The Dolphin Morris Men's 'Grand Xmas Social', once more organised by John Sweeney with Music provided by 'The Kingston-on-Soar Free Reed Ensemble'.

Games, beer-tasting, raffle, dancing and all for a '*ridiculously small charge of 50p*'.

1979 ended with Dolphin dancing at a Ripley Wayfarers ceilidh held on New Years Eve somewhere in Derbyshire but believed to be Alfreton.

Information to hand suggests that new members in 1979 included, Joe Oskiewicz, Pete Bradley, Ken Osborne, Bob Kear, Dave Timms, Tony Gray, Pete Tomlyn, Dave Crosbie, John Brammall, Phil Heaton, Tony Gray and Pete Hemsley.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

1980 - a new decade and new baldricks and badge, but belts not compulsory.

New kit was introduced in 1980. The old baldrick was made in two layers; a narrow green braid with a narrower red braid overlaid and the badge was made of felt. The very first baldrick had red ribbon instead of red braid sewn to the wider green braid because Celia Dyson was unable to get any red braid at that time. Colin Shaw had not been happy with that but there was nothing he could have done about it.

The new kit was sponsored by Dolphin Showers Ltd who sent a cheque for £135.82p. This money covered the cost of production of the new 'all in one' material which had to be especially made. The braid was wider than the original and was red with green edges and lighter in colour. The new badge was again much bigger and made of a silky material, it was much thicker, being padded before the top layers were 'zig-zag' stitched in place. The result was, a more professional finish. Everything comes with a cost and the baldrick (being lighter and made of a nylon braid and the badge being bigger and heavier) had to be pinned in place to stop the slippage that was inevitable in use. The new kit was put together and the badges made by Pete Bradley and his wife Jo and a splendid job they did of it as well. Here we see the men showing off the new kit at Thaxted.

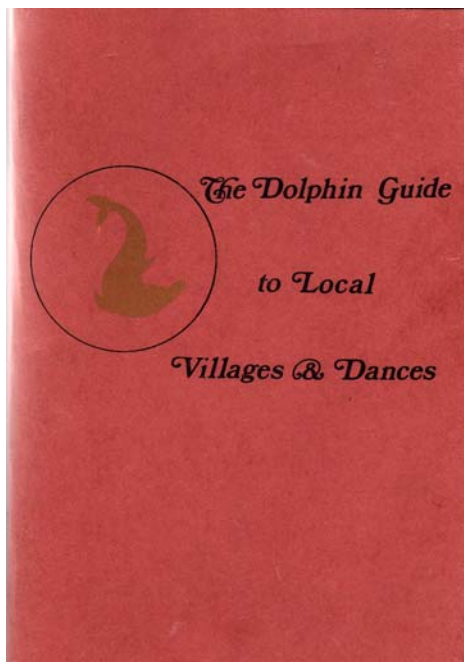


Photo taken at The spread Eagle pub while on tour at Thaxted 1980

Another departure from routine was the 1980 tours list. The Dolphin custom had been for a single sheet of paper bearing the Dolphin logo, some basic information about the Dolphin Morris Men, and a bit of history of the Morris and the Morris Ring - and of course the list of pub tours for the summer months.

In 1980 Bob Hine decided that something grander was needed and so he did a lot of research at the library, made copious notes on scraps of paper and the end result was, 'The Dolphin Guide to Local Villages & Dances'. This was a booklet with a red card cover and properly folded and stapled. Inside was a piece about, 'Morris Dancing in Nottinghamshire', then, 'Folk Customs in Nottinghamshire'. The bulk of the booklet covered information about the villages where Dolphin would dance during the summer. The back cover had the 1980 tour list printed on it. This booklet was produced by Joe Oskiewicz and indeed he made a very nice job of it. A classic one liner in the introduction describes the various types of dance that come under the umbrella title 'Morris' and includes longsword and rapper and 'dog' dancing of Lancashire! Apparently the 'c' and 'l' of clog were written so close together that they looked like a 'd' to the typesetter.

Old habits die hard and so the traditional single sheet tour list was also produced, but the booklet was the star of the show and was given away free of charge!



Front cover of guide

| THE DOLPHIN MORRISON | |
|--|------|
| THURSDAY EVENING DANCING SITES - SUMMER 1980 | |
| <u>1st May</u> | |
| Magna Charts, Lougham | 7.30 |
| Nags Head, Woodborough | 8.15 |
| Nags Head, Lambley | 9.00 |
| <u>8th May</u> | |
| Bull's Head, Diseworth | 7.45 |
| 3 H'shoes, Remington | 8.30 |
| Cross Keys, C. Donington | 9.15 |
| <u>15th May</u> | |
| Gardener's Inn, Coesall | 7.45 |
| Ritland Cottage, Ilkeston | 8.30 |
| Mundy Arms, Shipley | 9.15 |
| <u>22nd May</u> | |
| Flough, Wymall | 7.45 |
| White Lion, Rempstone | 8.30 |
| Windmill, Wymenwold | 9.15 |
| <u>29th May</u> | |
| Half Crown, Long Eaton | 7.45 |
| Bridge Inn, Long Eaton | 8.30 |
| Bull's Head, Breaaston | 9.15 |
| <u>5th June</u> | |
| Barton Village | 7.45 |
| Cuckoo Bush, Gotham | 8.30 |
| Star, West Leake | 9.15 |
| <u>12th June</u> | |
| Mapperley Hospital | 7.45 |
| Rose & Crown, Derby Road | 8.30 |
| University | 9.15 |
| <u>19th June</u> | |
| Foresters, Borrowash | 7.45 |
| Traveller Rest, Draycott | 8.30 |
| White Lion, Sandiacre | 9.15 |
| <u>26th June</u> | |
| New White Bull, Giltbrook | 7.45 |
| Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe | 8.30 |
| Horse & Jockey, Selston | 9.15 |
| <u>3rd July</u> | |
| Clifton Village | 7.45 |
| Red Heart, Ruddington | 8.30 |
| Ferry, Wilford | 9.15 |
| <u>10th July</u> | |
| Elm Tree, Hoveringham | 7.45 |
| Railway, Lougham | 8.30 |
| Unicom, Gunthorpe | 9.15 |
| <u>17th July</u> | |
| Yew Tree, Brinsley | 7.45 |
| Hole 1/2 Wall, U'wood | 8.30 |
| Gate Inn, Westwood | 9.15 |
| <u>24th July</u> | |
| HemlocksTone, Wollaton | 7.45 |
| Broad Oak, Strelley | 9.15 |
| <u>31st July</u> | |
| Navigation, Sawley | 7.45 |
| Harrington Arms, Sawley | 8.30 |
| Malt Shovel, Shardlow | 9.15 |

Back cover of guide

Saturday 2nd February 1980 and Dolphin were at the Leicester Morris annual Feast at Markfield. 36 gallons of Hoskins Best bitter helped to make it a convivial one. John Whitelaw and Ian Stewart sang, according to Dolphin newsletter number 8 dated 7th February and John Whitelaw apparently provided '*an unusual and tuneful accompaniment to Tony Gray*' John says, '*Even though I say so myself, the pitch and timing were perfect!*'

Wocko sang a rendition of his, '*Watney's lament*'. [See end of chapter for the lyrics]

On Saturday 23rd February 1980 Dolphin were booked to dance at a ceilidh at Ripley. Twelve Dolphins are recorded as attending. That is all that we know.

On Saturday 19th April 1980 Dolphin were once more dancing outside the Broad Marsh Centre, trying to balance the books for another year. £145.92p found its way into the collecting box/hat/tin and then to the side's bank account to accrue interest and smiles from the Bagman.

Below: *Here we see the men in the process of gathering in the funds*



The collection was apparently destined to be put towards purchasing new baldricks, but in the event a generous benefactor came to the rescue and by the end of May the new kit was made and in use.



Above: *More photographs from the Broadmarsh fundraising day*



Left: *Dolphin's Squire Ian Stewart, frantically searches his memory, for something he has done wrong or overlooked?*

Shortly after this photo was taken a sense of relief came over him when Ian found that it was only the collecting permit the officer wanted to see.

'Okay men which one of you arranged the collecting permit?'

In his AGM Bagman's report Bob Hine states, *'It is a coincidence that we were harassed unnecessarily by the Police and that we stopped sending a contribution to their benevolent fund!'*

On Saturday 3rd May 1980 the annual Bendigo Folk Club 'May Day' procession and traditional dance tour of Arnold took place. All proceeds went to a local good cause and in 1980 all monies raised went to the Ernehale Court Old Peoples Home. About a dozen dancing sides took part and collections realised over £200.

Saturday 17th May 1980 was the date of the Nuthall Hog Fayre , it was organised by St Patrick's Church and held on a field adjacent to The Three Ponds public house. With two dance spots in the afternoon, £45 made its way to the team bank account.

In May 1980 Bob Hine sent off a letter to Dolphin Showers Ltd asking for a donation towards the cost of re-equipping the side with new baldricks and badges. Bob used the anticipated 1981 Dolphin Ring Meeting as the hook to draw the sponsorship. A letter dated 22nd May 1980 was sent by Dolphin Showers Ltd with a cheque for the full amount of the materials in the sum of £135.82p. The new kit was made but in the



event the Ring Meeting did not in fact go ahead. Dolphin of course kept the money and wore the kit and for some reason didn't tell Dolphin Showers. It would be 1989 before Dolphin did in fact organise their next Ring Meeting.

On Monday 26th May 1980 Dolphin was booked to dance at the Bass Museum, performing a ten minute spot every 45/50 minutes between 11.30am and 4.30pm. In return the side got a fee, a ploughman's lunch and a 'reasonable supply of ale'. This is almost certainly the last time the old kit was used in public.



Thaxted 1980 was on the weekend of 31st May to 1st June and Umbrellas were the order of the day and hovering to keep one's feet dry!



Below: Some unusual views of Thaxted that you don't see every day!



...but when it rains you have to get your amusement where you can...!

Below: These photographs were taken in the Spread Eagle, Dolphin's adopted pub.



On Thursday 12th June 1980 Dolphin performed at an NTMC ceilidh at Nottingham University. There is a letter in the archive sent to Bob Hine, thanking the side for dancing, which says,

'Many thanks to all the fellers, and to yourself, for the truly rousing performance at the University last Thursday evening. I thought the dancing was really great, and the new baldricks quite dazzling. You certainly made the most of the acoustics with a spirited use of the sticks, and produced a really energetic and exciting performance'.

Bob Hine's 1980 AGM report includes the comment, *'Poor P.A. system but good dancing at uni'*. Bob was short and to the point (*a personal description he didn't like*).

The weekend of June 20th – 22nd 1980 was spent in Kent with the Hartley Morris Men at their weekend of dance. Dolphin were not able to send a full side so those who attended mixed and matched.



Above: *Here we see John Whitelaw, Ian Ambrose and Pete Bradley mixing & matching.*



And again, but on the grass.

Saturday 13th September 1980 was the wedding day of Martin Morley to Julie. The event took place at Spondon Church'



Above: Martin and Julie underneath the arches



Above: Julie getting the traditional treatment and the men getting the traditional grope of the bride (Traditional and by now predictable).

The AGM took place on Thursday 25th September 1980.

Ian Stewart remained as Squire. A new position was formally adopted of Deputy Squire and Ian Ambrose was voted in. Bob Hine retained the post of Bagman. Pete Bradley was voted in as the new keeper of the scrapbook. Ken Osborne was elected as Assistant Bagman.

A decision was made to organise a 'Southwell Procession' and Ian Ambrose would present a set of proposals about the event. The AGM minutes record that, '*Shortage of time prevented extensive discussion of the Southwell Procession, but it was agreed that Dolphin should organise one, to coincide with the Nottingham Festival, in collaboration with other sides*'. Bob Hine's discovery was beginning to take shape.

Ian Stewart proposed that belts should become a compulsory part of Dolphin kit but this motion was defeated by a small majority.

Bob Hine proposed that the standard of headgear needed to be raised and that the bag should purchase a supply of hats and sell them to members at a nominal fee. The motion was carried but Sid Long fought the decision to prevent excessive uniformity. Joe Oskiewicz volunteered to make a new 'Marigold' and asked for some assistance with the design.

Bob Hine's report informs that the membership at the time of the AGM included:
Paid up members: Roy Dyson, Ian Ambrose, Phil Wrigley, Ian Stewart, Steve Spencer-Jowett, Ian Brammall, Bob Hine, Tom Mitchell, Dave Ledsam, John Whitelaw, Jethro Anderson, Alan Muhr, Terry Paling, Pat Tribensee, Dave Timms, Ted Hutchby, Chris Villiers, Pete Bradley, John Sweeney, Martin Morley, Ken Osborne, Sid long
Others: Bob Keer, Stephen Gee, Joe Oskiewicz, Dave Crosbie, Pete Tomlyn, Phil Heaton
That is 28 names on the books or four dancing sets of six men and a musician!

Dolphin organised a weekend of Dance on 24th-26th October 1980 which centred on Kingston-on-Soar village hall. Among sides attending were Hartley Morris from Kent and local side Selston Holly Boys and their leader Ian Taylor.



Above left: *Hartley's own tour bus with 'Morris Men on Tour' on the destination board. They travelled up to Nottingham in it.*

Above right: *All up with Hartley, Dolphin and Selston Holly Boys.*



Above left: *Hartley and Wib being mad* Above right: *Ian Stewart with the official Dolphin white polo-neck shirt and contrasting jacket* [never adopted as kit]



Above left: *The band* Above right: *Looks like Bonny Green with Dolphin, Hartley and Selston Holly Boys with Ian Taylor their leader in the top hat.*

Bob Hine's Bagman's report at the AGM 1981, explains that this weekend was the postponed feast that should have happened in January.

Bob said that it *'was rather explosive'*.

Ian Stewart explains, *'that comes back to the Hartley men putting bangers in their pint mugs'*, Ian goes on to explain *'Bangers as in exploding fireworks'*.

The Dolphin newsletter dated 30th October 1980 says,

'Many thanks, to John Whitelaw and Ian Ambrose, for organising the splendid Saturday tour, and for coping with our rather explosive guests from the south'.

The newsletter goes on to say, *Many people expressed their satisfaction at the excellent spread put on by the caterers'*.

The Plessey Sports and Social Club at Beeston held (at regular intervals) a *'free and easy'* dance. On Thursday 6th November 1980 Dolphin were booked to do a fifteen minute spot during the interval.

The side were not dancing until about 9.20pm so the men met at The Jolly Anglers pub, just down the road from Plessey, to dance a warm up set, and probably had a drink as well?



On December 13th 1980 and Dolphin were found performing on Lister Gate in the name of fundraising for the side's bank account and raised £167.56p.



Above: 'Hey, look what we can do'



Above: A crowd gathers while Terry Paling and Iain Anderson provide the music for the dance.



Right: Ian Stewart keeps the cold at bay in cable stitch

1980 finished as usual with the Christmas social which was on Thursday 18th December. Bob Hine's 1981 AGM report says, 'The Xmas social was reported to be enjoyable but the premises were cold and somewhat cramped'. [No location noted]

Information to hand suggests that new members for 1980 included; Nick Murphy, John Walker, Nick Hobbs and Nick (Bramley, Edwards or Smith?).

A new feature for 1980 was 'Bob's one liners' and his detailed breakdown for the years bookings, collections and events. Bob also listed the membership, paid up or otherwise, at the time of the AGM, and this showed twenty eight names! [There is no information to show if all 28 ever turned out at one time and place]

The Thursday evening tours list is reproduced at the end of this chapter exactly as it appeared in Bob's report.

DOLPHIN THURSDAY EVENING TOURS 1980

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| MAY 1 ST | Magna Charta, Lowdham Nags Head, Woodborough Nags Head, Lambley | 4.50½ 4.51 7.11 <u>£16.12½</u> | A cold evening, but dry. Good collection inside at Lambley. |
| MAY 8 TH | Bull's Head, Diseworth 3 H'shoes, Hemington Cross Keys, C. Donington | 2.27 4.25½ 4.00½ <u>£10.53</u> | Another cold evening, but clear, with some chilly sunshine. Diseworth had been evacuated for the evening. Speed the goats + funeral Country Gardens at Hemington. Dark, no sticks & no audience at CD. |
| MAY 15 TH | Gardener's Inn, Cossall Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston Mundy Arms, Shipley | 9.16 6.79 4.69½ <u>£20.64½</u> | Pleasant, sunny evening. Large crowd (Pete's relatives) at C. Slow bar at R.C. but pretty good audience on the grass. Quite chilly at S; as usual, car park packed - enthusiastic young audience. |
| MAY 22 ND | Plough, Wysall White Lion, Rempstone Windmill, Wymeswold | 6.99 3.99 7.62 <u>£18.60</u> | A cold grey evening, spitting with rain at Wysall (because of 4-man Morris?). Good audiences at R and W - afterwards a sing & some music. |
| MAY 29 TH | Half Crown, Long Eaton Bridge Inn, Long Eaton Bull's Head, Breaston | 2.73½ 8.85 3.78 <u>£15.36½</u> | Cold evening, but clear sky & not much wind. ½ Crown featured a large puddle & works (not necessarily in that order). Circumnavigated B. Inn. New balarits flaunted at Breaston, thanks Navigation. |
| JUNE 5 TH | Barton Village Cuckoo Bush, Gotham Star, West Leake | 4.01 3.88 12.08½ <u>£19.97½</u> | Hottest day for 4 years. Small but enthusiastic audience at Browns Lane Barton. C.B. fair Star good - no students + Pat's tunes + wibs song. Rained after we were safely in pub. |
| JUNE 12 TH | Mapperley Hospital Rose & Crown, Derby Road University Ceilidh - fee | - 5.03 16.00 <u>£21.03</u> | Conerary celebrations at Mapperley - audience thin but thick; beer, burgers & brass band some compensation. Joined by Greenwood & also at R.C. Poor P.A system but good dancing at this. |
| JUNE 19 TH | Foresters, Borrowash Traveller Rest, Draycott White Lion, Sandiacre | 6.54 3.80 9.82½ <u>£20.16½</u> | Dolphin Blowers strikes again - very wet at Borrowash - danced inside. June only for 2 dances at Draycott before the deluge. Then to W.L.'s Skittle alley & a good session afterwards. |
| JUNE 26 TH | New White Bull, Giltbrook Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe Horse & Jockey, Selston | 6.25 7.47 5.91½ <u>£19.63½</u> | After heavy thunderstorms during day, evening was sunny & not too cold. Small but appreciative audience at NWB. Nearly 'jugged' by landlord at D.A. Pete's computers at Selston. Good session. |
| JULY 3 RD | Clifton Village Red Heart, Ruddington Ferry, Wilford | 4.24½ 6.76 9.37 <u>£20.37½</u> | Warm sunny day & pleasant evening. Ruddled on the Green at Clifton. Reluctant Brides in the Camp at RH - jukebox joint. Good crowd in beer garden at ferry - followed by Phil's charred slides. |
| JULY 10 TH | Elm Tree, Hoveringham Railway, Lowdham Unicorn, Gunthorpe | 3.13 2.68 7.77½ <u>£13.58½</u> | Cold and rather dull evening. Picturesque spot at E.T. patronised by car rally set. Large garden + midgets at Railway. Good dancing at unibar Unicorn. |
| JULY 17 TH | Yew Tree, Brinsley Hole i/t Wall, U'wood Gate Inn, Westwood | 2.36½ 3.66 4.73½ <u>£10.76</u> | [K0] Very cloudy, cold, dismal. Not many spectators. However generally good level of dancing & at least didn't rain. Initially 6 men only - but found music in audience. |
| JULY 24 TH | Hemlockstone, Wollaton Broad Oak, Strelley | 21.13 10.30 <u>£31.43</u> | [K0] Very hot, sunny, excellent crowds. |
| JULY 31 ST | Navigation, Sawley Harrington Arms, Sawley Malt Shovel, Shardlow net (£26.26) | | [03] warm, sunny, good crowds at N & MS; late start (no bar beer I hope); retrospective illuminations; good session. |

WATNEY'S LAMENT

A song written and performed by Lloyd Winston Watkins ©Date unknown

Come guess me this riddle, what's weaker than piddle,
What sags in the middle like a broken old horse,
What's doleful and dolorous, and tasteless and colourless?
The answer my fellows is Watney's of course!

It's hardly surprising with all of the lies in
The whole advertising campaign, you might think:
That a hole in the head or a night in a bed
With a Policeman that's dead; is preferred to this drink.

If you want a good time, take a heed to my rhyme,
Sup Australian wine or sniff aeroplane glue.
For what e'er your apparel a half of Red Barrel
Is bound to imperil, your chance of a screw.

It'll dampen your ardour, you'll not be a father
Though you'll try just as hard, as you possibly might.
For should you but sup from one miserable cup,
You'll ne'er get it up though you try half the night.

Then she'll be frustrated and you'll be berated,
You'll find that she's dated some fellow called James;
Who's been out on the Guinness, and has all the finesse
Of Gold Medal winners, at Olympic Games.

Now a pint of Ben Truman, will make you sub-human,
Bass makes you a new man and Worthington 'E'
And Newcastle Brown knocks you straight to the ground,
If you're buying a round it's Hook Norton for me.

Whether washing your car, or soaking your bra',
Or hosing an abattoir, flushing the drain,
You'll find nothing better, or warmer or wetter
It'll make you go cretinous, soft in the brain.

But it's worthy of merit for drowning your ferret,
That's if you can get it to stay in the sink,
It may seem quite shoddy, but the poor little sod he
Will give the thing body, and improve the drink.

The man who invented it surely intended it
Should be prevented from going on sale.
He was doing researches for worm cures for lurchers
Not liquor for purchase, supposed to be ale.

It defies all analysis, it brings on paralysis,
Manufactured in malice; is cursed and annoys.
In a test tube or beaker you'll all shout Eureka
If you want something weaker than...WATNEY'S my boys.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1981 – The year TIZWAS wasn't, but the Gate was

In 1981 the first Gate to Southwell of the revival left the drawing board, and hit the streets running, or at least walking a bit and dancing a bit. Ian Ambrose became only the fifth Squire of Dolphin, the side performed at the Eighth International Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry, and also purchased a first aid kit! It was all happening in 1981 except at the TISWAS studio.

From 9th to 11th January 1981 Ian Stewart and Ian Ambrose attended a Morris Ring 'Squire's and Foreman's' weekend at Sarratt. Ian Stewart was the current Squire and at the AGM Ian Ambrose was destined to take over the mantle of fronting the side. The skills gained at Sarratt would prove invaluable.

On Saturday 7th February 1981 Dolphin, once again, sent men to the annual feast organised by the Leicester Morris Men. It was held as usual at the Miners Institute at Markfield and for £3 per man good food and a selection of beers was on offer, with some dancing for the traditionalists.

Bob Hine, Dolphin's bagman had been approached to organise some entertainment at the University of Nottingham, School of Agriculture, Sutton Bonington. The event took place on Tuesday 7th April 1981 and involved: Dolphin Morris, Notts Alliance Folk Singers, Flash Packet Ceilidh Band, and the Greenwood Clog Dancers. Being put on by the Electricity Council the entertainment was to last for one hour and Bob negotiated a fee of £100. For the additional cost of postage and packing Bob also sent one hundred copies of the *'informative booklets on the Morris Dancers'*. Afterwards a letter was received thanking everyone for *'the most enjoyable evening'* and that *'Our overseas visitors appreciated the English skills you showed both in Morris Dancing, Clog Dancing, singing and the ceilidh band'*.



On Saturday 25th April 1981 Street Collection permit number 926 was issued by the Nottingham City Council allowing the Dolphin men to dance in Lister Gate and collect for their own benefit. Dolphin did this fundraising day twice a year, and in April it was always, on the nearest Saturday to St George's Day. On that day it was raining and a note in the scrapbook simply says, *'RAINDORF'*. There are photographs

showing the men under John Sweeney's red umbrella with the surrounding road surface looking very wet. The men could still raise a smile even though the bank account was a little glum. Bob Hine in his 1981 AGM report said, *'The blizzard conditions which forced us to cancel the April collection cost the bag about £150 in*

lost income, but fortunately we have had a healthy reserve to draw on’. Bob could be relied upon to be prudent in matters fiscal.

May Day was Monday 4th May in 1981 and it was a busy day for the Dolphin men. A pub tour at The Unicorn at Langar and The Nag’s Head at Harby. At the Nag’s Head, Dolphin were joined by the Clifton Grove Morris Men.

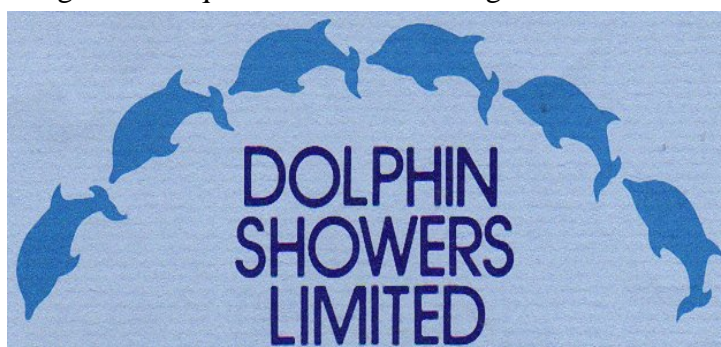
Upon leaving the Nag’s Head the Dolphin men danced at the Bottesford May Day celebrations which were held *‘in and around the village hall’* or the *‘Bottesford Victory Commemoration Hall’* to give it its official title. The first dancing spot was at 3pm so the men had time for a drink, to socialise and to get to the event, but it appears not enough to stop and take a few pictures. Two fifteen minute dancing spots was all that was required of them and the bag made a £45 profit. Bob’s AGM report simply says *‘The season began with a Monday (Bank Holiday) lunchtime tour to Langar and Harby (the latter with Clifton Grove), followed by a paid gig at Bottesford’*.

May 1981, and Bob using his best writing and all his charm wrote a begging letter to Dolphin Showers Limited. They had been good to us in the past and now the hour of need was once more upon the side. Bob thanked the company for their generous assistance with the new kit and sent them a photograph of the men at Thaxted in 1980 when it was worn in public for the first time. A little optimistically Bob also sent a copy of the programme of events for 1981 but if nothing else it bulks up the envelope and provides a distraction from the main point of the letter which was begging – for more money.

This time, with the kit in good order, it was the turn of Dolphin’s newest venture – The *‘Gate to Southwell’*. A copy of the press release was enclosed and Bob pointed out the aims of the event. Using the main thrust of his persuasive letter as the collection of money (along the route of *‘The Gate’*), the bulk of which would go to the Childrens Unit of the City Hospital, Bob then highlighted other expenses that would need to be paid.

The purchase of a special wheelchair for the unit was the eventual goal but the event required the hire of three minibuses at £25 each, £25 towards the cost of printing, paper and postage and then Bob admitted that he, *‘had promised a barrel of beer to all those dancers who complete the procession’*. The beer added a further £25 to the bill.

The clincher was Bob’s final paragraph which started, *‘I hesitate to ask...’* and goes on, *‘We would like to help the Children’s unit as much as possible, especially in this year of the disabled’*. By now the Marketing Director was reaching for the tissues as he signed a cheque for £100 and arranged for it to be forwarded to Bob.



Dolphin Showers Limited, on each occasion that they were approached, had risen to the occasion and without hesitation had helped out, and the cheque was sent by return of post with no delays and with no discernible benefit to the company. Their generosity

was much appreciated and without a doubt helped *‘The Gate’* to be the success that it was in that first year [of which more later].

The 1981 'Summer' tour season commenced on May 7th and continued on Thursday evenings until July 30th. Bob Hine kept a record, again, of the tours and made a few notes about each one. His record is included at the end of this chapter with details of proceeds to the bank account from each stop.

Saturday 16th May 1981 was the date of the 'Nuthall Church Hog Fayre' and Dolphin Morris Men were asked to dance, and accepted a fee of £50. Someone had a camera and so the event was recorded in photographs:



Above: 'All up' at the end of Ring of Bells from Lichfield



Above: Whilst hovering a gust of wind blew the men out of perfect alignment but the crowd, mesmerised, were blissfully unaware and enjoyed the spectacle anyway.

The Annual Thaxted Ring Meeting ran from May 29th to 31st 1981 and unusually no paperwork remains but a lot of photographs were taken. Dolphins identified from the photographs so far include:

Dave Ledsam, Ian Stewart, Ian ambrose, Iain Anderson, John Whitelaw, Joe Oskiewicz, Phil Wrigley, Pete Bradley, John Walker, Pat Brett, and John Sweeney.

Ian Stewart reported at the AGM that, *'We were accepted at Thaxted for the second year in succession, having now established a base at the Spread Eagle. During the massed show, we did what we have done every time we have danced at Thaxted – got the biggest round of applause from both audience and other Morris Men'.*



The Gate to Southwell

In 1981 the BIG event of the year for Dolphin Morris was the 'Gate to Southwell' but the journey of research and discovery began much earlier.

In 1980 Bob Hine completed his research and produced the booklet '*Guide to Local Villages & Dances*'. In the guide in a piece entitled '*Morris Dancing in Nottinghamshire*' Bob writes, '*In 1530, for example, the Morris dancers led the annual church procession from Nottingham to Southwell. The Nottingham Chamberlain's accounts for that year show that the council paid not only for the 'moryan's cote' (morrisman's coat) but also for the ale 'that the danssars drawnc at all tyms*'.

The minutes of the 1980 AGM record that, '*Shortage of time prevented extensive discussion of the Southwell Procession, but it was agreed that Dolphin should organise a Southwell Procession, to coincide with the Nottingham Festival, in collaboration with other sides*'.

So the 'Gate to Southwell' was re-born. A press notice issued on 18th April 1981 states;

MORRISMEN TO RECREATE OLD NOTTS CUSTOM

On Saturday 6 June [1981], Morris dancers from Nottinghamshire will dance from Nottingham city centre all the way to Southwell Minster. They will be recreating an ancient custom dating from 1109 – The "Gate to Southwell".

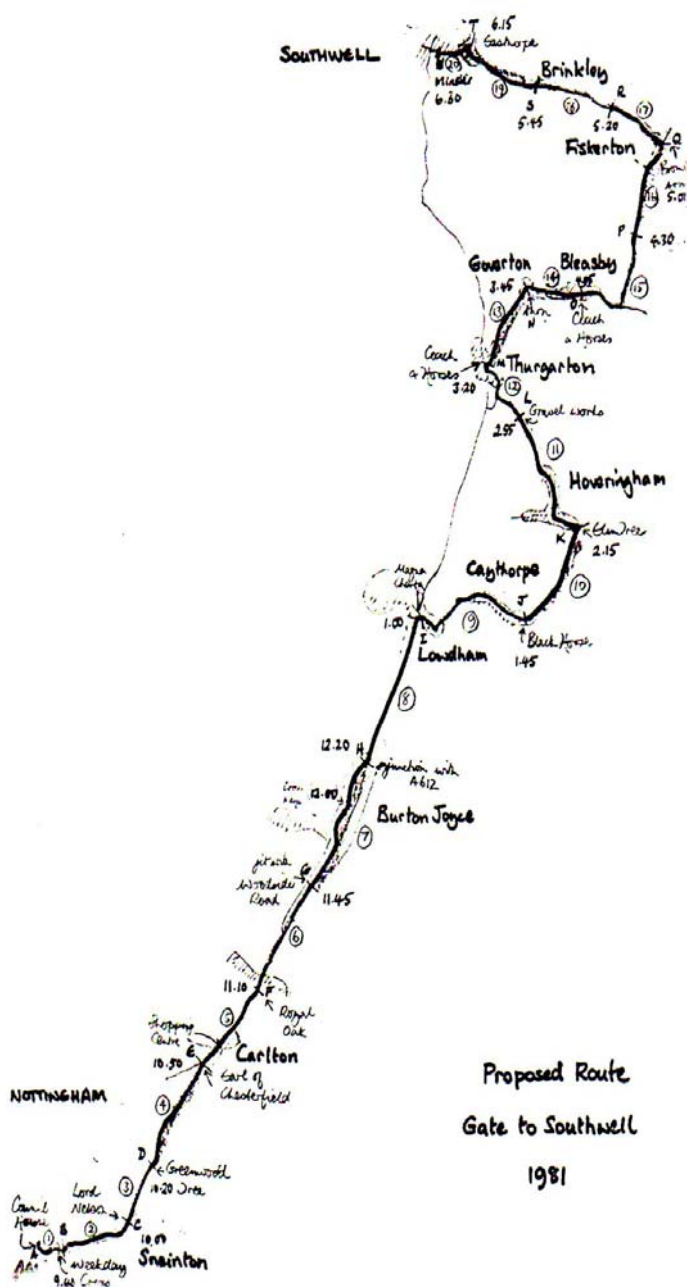
The "Gate" an old word for 'procession' – took place annually for over 500 years. At the head of the procession rode the Mayor and Corporation of Nottingham. Behind them came priests and churchwardens from each parish in the county, bearing offerings to the Minster. Many other villagers and townspeople joined the procession too – it was part pilgrimage, part holiday excursion to the fair at Southwell – and entertainment was provided on the way by the Morris Dancers. Not until the eighteenth century did this annual custom die out.

This year's re-enactment of the "Gate" is being organised by Nottingham's Dolphin Morris Men. Dancing with them will be two other Nottingham Sides – Foresters and Clifton Grove – and the Micklebarrow Men from Southwell. With the Morris Men and their musicians will go a troupe of sponsored walkers in period costume, helping to complete the atmosphere of the ancient procession.

There were three reasons for re-creating the Gate to Southwell;

- 1 The procession was an important and long-lived traditional event in Nottinghamshire, was virtually unknown and almost totally lost to modern inhabitants.
- 2 The Gate provides the earliest known documentary evidence of Morris dancing in the county (1530) and hence strengthens the link between present day revival Morris and the traditional art-form in this area.
- 3 Simply that it promises to be an unusual and very enjoyable experience.

Preparations for the event were extensive. The route was planned, walked measured and mapped and approximate timings worked out so that the procession arrived at the appointed places as near to 'on time' as was possible. The route was almost 21 miles, and with numerous stops at pubs and locations along the way as well as planning a lunch stop for each team, timing was paramount.



- Timings were hoped to be;
- 0930 Council House
 - 0940 Weekday Cross
 - 1000 Lord Nelson
 - 1020 Greenwood Tree
 - 1050 Earl of Chesterfield
 - 1110 Royal Oak
 - 11.45 Woodside Road
 - 1200 Cross Keys
 - 1220 Junction Main Road
 - 1300 Magna Charta
 - 1345 Black Horse
 - 1415 Elm Tree
 - 1455 Gravel Pits
 - 1520 Coach & Horses
 - 1605 Wagon & Horses
 - 1700 Bromley Arms
 - 1745 Brinkley
 - 1815 White Lion
 - 1830 Southwell Minster

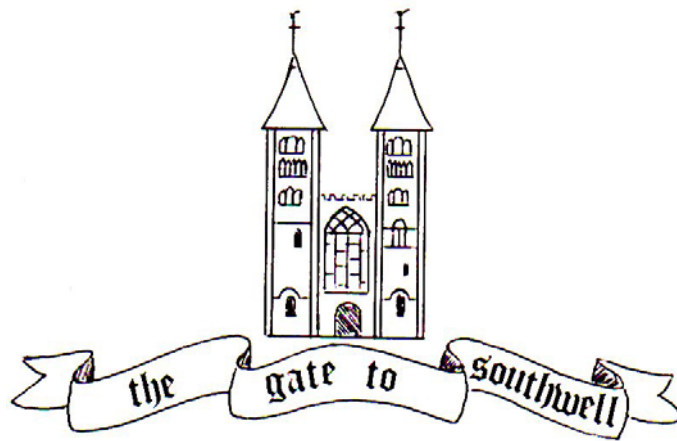
The route taken by the original procession is not recorded and so a route was chosen to keep away from the main roads and pass through as many villages as was feasible.

It was decided that numbers would be strictly limited. The procession would comprise: A cross-bearer and a ‘Mayor’ followed by about 20 sponsored walkers in 16th century costume. They would be led by a team of musicians and Morris Dancers. The Morris Dancers would be organised into three relay groups, and will give displays at selected points on the journey, as well as dancing in the procession.

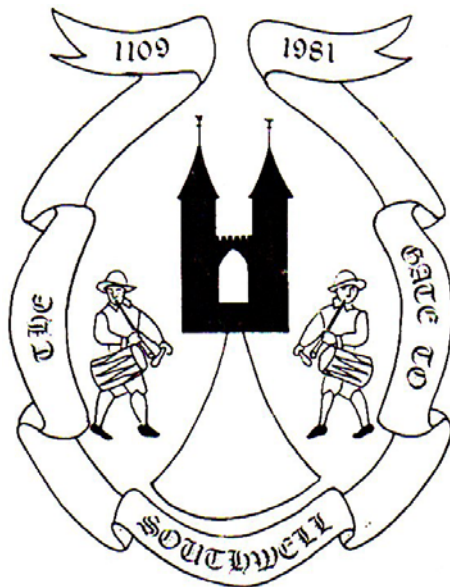
There would be a collection along the way, and the dancers were encouraged to obtain individual sponsorship. The sponsored walkers were collecting for ‘OXFAM’.

The idea for the logo, of the ‘Gate’ and the associated artwork, was down to Dolphin member Pete Bradley. Several ideas were tried before a logo was decided upon.

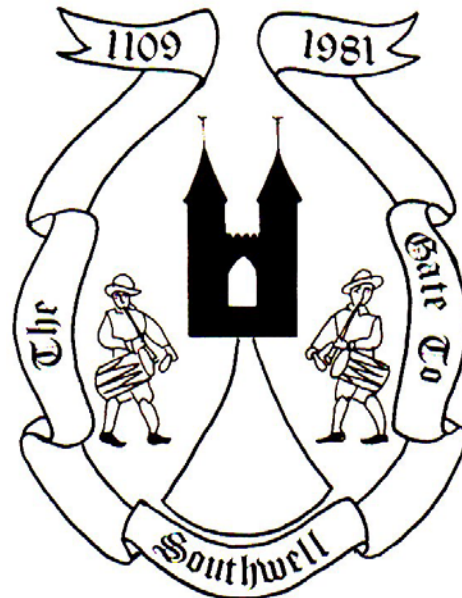
The first idea.



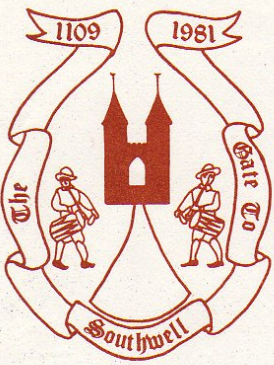
The second idea.



The third and winning idea



...and here is how it appeared on headed notepaper



The Gate to Southwell

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

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



Above: Hobnobbing with the Mayor before the start



Above: Dolphin dancing outside the Council house at the start



Above: On Lister Gate with Father Kenneth Loveless leading the way



Clifton Grove Morris Men



Micklebarrow & Clifton Grove Morris Men



Micklebarrow



Phil Wrigley and Iain Anderson



Above: Seventeen Dolphins and Marigold



Wib and Joe



Wocko, Pete, Marigold, Joe, John



All the sides outside the Minster



Eleven Clifton Grove Morris Men

As well as the four Morris sides invited guests also included The Squire of the Morris Ring, Father Kenneth Loveless, and the Bagman of the Ring, Mike Garland.



Above: Photograph taken at Southwell Minster. Carrying the cross is Ted Hutchby. Bob Hine is seen to the left of Ted, Father Ken to his right, and Mike Garland in red and yellow fools kit.

This Mark I Cross was later replaced with one made by Ted Hutchby himself. 'Marigold' the Dolphin can be seen to the left smiling for the camera



Twenty one Foresters Morris Men



Ten Micklebarrow Morris Men



The 1981 Commemorative 'Gate' tankard

Dolphin Showers Ltd who had been generous donors in the past were approached and again displayed their generosity by making a donation of £100 towards the hire of mini-buses the cost of publicity and printing, and to providing a barrel of beer for the dancers.

Right: Ian Stewart sporting the Dolphin showers logo during the procession.



After the event, photographs of the Gate were displayed for a week at the Nottingham Playhouse (where dancers from the Gate performed for the public on the opening night). The display then moved to Southwell Minster where it was on show for another week.

NTMC put out a 'Bullsheet' dated 12th June 1981 which informed the club members that, *'The Gate to Southwell was a huge success and a credit to all involved: the organisers, the dancers and the musicians, the pilgrim and the Oxfam walkers in costume. Great co-operation was received on the way. Coffee was provided at Burton Joyce, and the Town Crier came out to welcome us with a proclamation at Sneinton. Thanks go to Bob Hine and his team of organisers from Dolphin, Micklebarrow, Foresters and Clifton Grove Morris teams, and Sandy of Oxfam'.*

Bob Hine's Bagman's report at the 1981 AGM stated, *'The novel event of the year was the Gate to Southwell undertaken in conjunction with Foresters, Clifton Grove & Micklebarrow. We were very pleased to have with us the Ring Squire (Ken Loveless) and Ring Bagman (Mike Garland). All participants seem to have enjoyed the day – thanks partly to good weather (which seemed unlikely a day or two before) – and the feast afterwards. Once again Dolphin Showers gave us valuable financial support, helping the event to break even. Sponsorship of the dancers raised £511.92 for the City Hospital Children's Unit, and in addition the Oxfam walkers raised some £400'.*

Letters of thanks were received from the Squire and Bagman of the Morris Ring.

Father Kenneth asked, *'Be so kind to convey to the Squire and all members of Dolphin Morris this expression of my most grateful thanks for their kind hospitality – and particularly for the gift of the splendid engraved tankard, which I shall treasure'.*

Mike Garland said, *'A very quick note to say thank you for allowing me to take part in the excellent Gate to Southwell. I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon, and I'm pleased to report the legs & feet in fine condition after my seven or eight miles! Please pass on my regards and thanks to the men for making me so welcome. All success for future 'Gates', may they continue and flourish'.*

Thanks were also received from the City Hospital for the donation.

Ian Stewart in his 1981 AGM Squires report stated, *'THE event of the year was, of course, the Gate to Southwell. I can truthfully say that Dolphin made Morris history by originating and organising the Gate, with credit going to Bob for having the original idea and motivating not only Dolphin but several other sides to carry it out.*

Credit too to everybody else in the side who worked hard to set up the event – on the day, the organisation worked like a charm’.



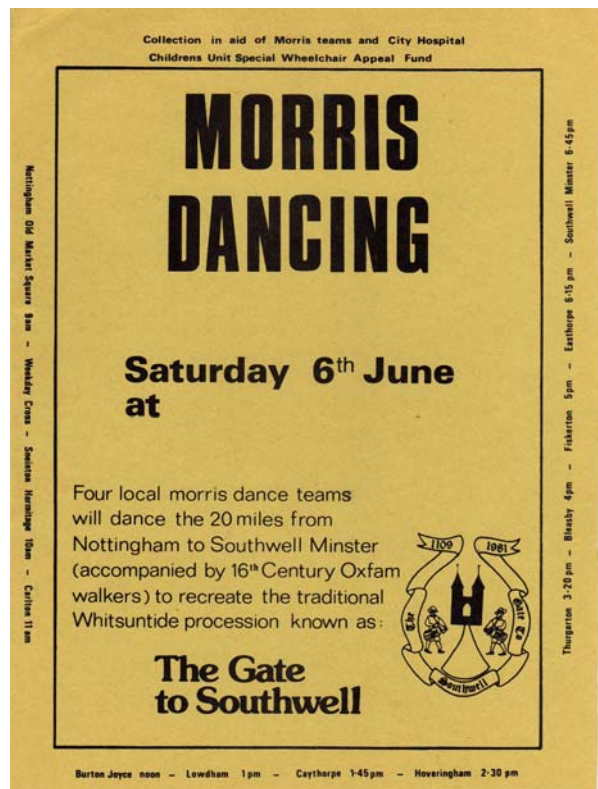
Press photograph from the Evening Post showing Bob Hine handing over the cheque for £511.92p to Mrs Susan Dunster for the Friends of the Greenwood Childrens Centre at The City Hospital.

At the time of writing (2008) the Gate to Southwell continues to inspire other teams to join in.

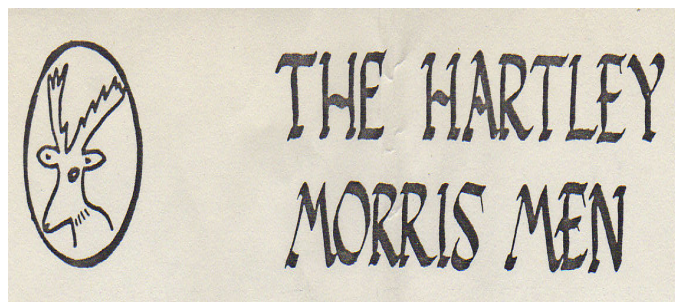


Left: The first ‘Gate’ badge was given out to all the participants. Each year a new design is found and the badge presented as a souvenir

Right: The first ‘Gate’ poster which was made by Joe Oskiewich using ‘leterset’ (dry transferable lettering) which was popular before the widespread use of computers. Joe was heard to say how much fun he had positioning the rub on letters and numbers!



After the excitement of 'The Gate' it was back to basics with three weeks of Thursday evening pub tours, with a Hartley Ale in between.



The weekend of June 19th to 21st 1981 was spent in Kent with the Hartley Morris Men and their weekend of Ale and dancing. No photographs have been kept but the tour leaflet that is in the archive details where the men danced.

On Saturday 20th June Dolphin were attached to the Darenth tour and the leaflet says, *'This particular tour was due for retirement this year but Dolphins specifically requested it. So blame them!'*

10.30am Westerham Green

11.30am Fox and Hounds, Toys Hill

12.30pm Cock, Ide Hill

3.30pm Chartwell House

(tea and stickies and a walk round the house)

6.30pm massed display in the Square at Wrotham

(firkin of ale supplied by the landlord of the Bull)

On Sunday 21st June there was a lunchtime massed display at the Rose and Crown Wrotham before lunch and a long drive back to Nottingham.

Saturday 27th June 1981 and the annual Dolphin Day of Dance around Sutton Bonington went ahead. The usual format was to perform at various sites in and around the village with a pub organised for lunch. Unfortunately the itinerary for the day has not survived but photographs have:

views of the side at various stops during the morning session of dancing





After lunch the day of dance moved across to Morley in Derbyshire the side had been booked to perform at two events one in Morley the other in Derby:

The first event was on behalf of the Morley Day Association and the side did a twenty minute display on the football field adjacent to the Three Horse Shoes public house. A letter of thanks was received, *'On behalf of the committee'* and went on to say, *'I would like to thank you for the enthralling performance you gave for us on our annual Morley Day this year. You held us spellbound for the whole performance, and many people have said how much they enjoyed watching you'*.

The second event was the Ivy House School Summer Fayre at Osmaston Road Derby. The School for mentally and physically handicapped children would be using proceeds from the fayre to buy equipment and apparatus for the children.

Monday 30th August 1981 was a Bank Holiday and in Hertfordshire it was the day of *'Greenbelt 81'*. The day was overcast and wet and hopefully helped to keep the belt green. Dolphin were booked to perform and became suitably damp, but continued to smile for all that. In the photograph Ian Ambrose can be seen leading a Shepherd's Hey from Adderbury, (or it may be every member of the side spontaneously dropped their handkerchiefs). Ian Stewart can be seen here joined by a mysterious fiddler in black.



Friday 11th September 1981. The handwritten note on the letter says, 'Provisionally booked at £50 for 20 minutes'. The letter was a request to the side to perform at the 'Farewell Party' for delegates at the ISN. The International Society for Neurochemistry was having its eighth international meeting and was based at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. The letter of acceptance informs that a bar extension to 11.15pm has been applied for so it appears that the side were not going to be bundled away after the performance. A further handwritten note on the original letter simply says, 'Beelzebub' with no explanation whatsoever?



The following day Saturday 12th September 1981 was Dolphin's Day of Dance and Feast, based in Kingston-on-Soar. Originally Dolphin had intended arranging a Ring Meeting during 1981, but when the idea fell through this weekend was its replacement. Sides attending the rearranged weekend were: Kinnerton Morris Men, Leicester Morris Men, Hartley Morris Men and Derby Morris Men. Bob Hine, in his AGM Bagman's report mentioned, 'The recent 1981 weekend being very successful' and went on, 'With a pleasant tour of villages in the morning and a massed display in the Old Market Square, Nottingham in the afternoon'. Bob concluded that, 'This is a formula which should be repeated'. Ian Stewart in his Squires report said, 'Our planned Ring Meeting fell through' and went on to say, '...and we used the planned Ring weekend to set up our own day/weekend of dance, which in the event turned out to be a big success'.

Below: *Random photographs from the weekend:*



Above: Dolphin and Leicester at The Star, West Leake



Above: Dolphin and Guests at Rempstone



Dolphin's at rest. Ian with a tune and Wib with a cigar and his 'Gate' tankard





Left: *Ian Stewart passes his sporan around the crowds in the Market Square to be filled with coin of the realm while Kinnerton Morris Men prepare to dance*

After the event a letter was received from Kinnerton's Colin Nicholson thanking Dolphin for the weekend. Colin added a P.S. *'I have just seen a Morris add selling Galaxy choc.'*

On Thursday 24th September 1981 Dolphin held the AGM at Kingston on Soar village hall. The minutes show that fourteen members were present and that 'also present' was Pat Brett.

The election of officers produced some changes:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squire | Ian Ambrose replaced Ian Stewart |
| Deputy Squire | Terry Paling replaced Ian Ambrose |
| Bagman | Bob Hine remained in post |
| Assistant Bagman | Pete Bradley replaced Ken Osborn |
| Scrapbook Keeper | John Walker replaced Pete Bradley |

Any other business brought an offer by John Whitelaw to carry a side first aid kit on tour. There is a receipt in the archive for the purchase of the first aid kit.

'John Sweeney proposed a vote of thanks to Ian Stewart for his work as Squire of Dolphin for the last six years. Bob Hine paid warm tribute to Ian's leadership and central role in building up the Dolphin side'.

'Terry Paling proposed that Ian Stewart be nominated for Squire of the Ring. Ian replied that he felt complimented but was unable to take the job on'.

In his Bagman's report Bob Hine noted that there were 21 paid up members. He listed them along with their year of joining as:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Roy Dyson (1968)</i> | <i>Ian Ambrose (1971)</i> | <i>Dave Ledsam (1978)</i> |
| <i>Ian Stewart (1968)</i> | <i>Steve Jowett (1974)</i> | <i>Pete Bradley (1979)</i> |
| <i>Bob Hine (1968)</i> | <i>Jethro Anderson (1975)</i> | <i>Ken Osborn (1979)</i> |
| <i>John Whitelaw (1968)</i> | <i>Pat Tribensee (1975)</i> | <i>Joe Oskiewicz (1980)</i> |
| <i>Terry Paling (1968)</i> | <i>Martin Morley (1976)</i> | <i>Bob Kear (1980)</i> |
| <i>Ted Hutchby (1970)</i> | <i>Phil Wrigley (1977)</i> | <i>John Walker (1980)</i> |
| <i>John Sweeney (1971)</i> | <i>Ian Brammall (1977)</i> | <i>Stephen Gee (no date)</i> |
| <i>Pat Brett (no date)</i> | | |
| Membership lapsed for: | | |
| <i>Tom Mitchell (1974)</i> | <i>Chris Villiers (1976)</i> | <i>Sid Long (no date)</i> |
| <i>Alan Muhr (1978)</i> | <i>Dave Timms (1979)</i> | |

Ian Stewart in his final Squires report wrote:

*'The standard of punctuality was well in line with Dolphin tradition – terrible!'
'...and this season I had no call to send out the Squire's rude letter in the way that had become customary'*

'Another good feature of the previous season was also kept on – the music and song sessions after the finish of practices (indeed, some men liked these sessions so much that they turned up for them in preference to the practice). This was helped a lot by our decision to change pubs from the Anchor to the Station'.

'The Thursday tours kept up the trend towards going for nice pubs and good beer, rather than for the dubious aim of "Bigger bags from town stops". I believe that the side approved of this emphasis – I certainly did'.

Ian finished his report with, *'So, I'll finish by saying that, unlike all past Squires of Dolphin, I am not going to disappear from the club now that my term of office is over; on the contrary, I look forward to continuing to dance and teach'.*



A letter in the archive from John Fleming of ATV Network Limited says, *'Just to confirm that we would like the Dolphin Morris Men to appear on the show 'live' this Saturday, 26th September (1981).*

We want a local ATVland group to perform a Morris Dance which is visually different to the Kentish one ["on the show a couple of weeks ago"].

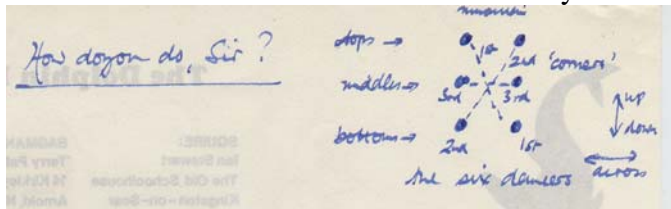
The idea is that, throughout the series, we have different folk dances, each culminating in a "flan fight" as that's what people expect. I believe that you have a dance that starts normally and ends with face-slapping and that this could be adapted. The idea is to do all the dances straight-faced with the "flanning" as an integral part of the dance.

The letter says, *'I understand there will be six dancers and a maximum of three musicians plus a Dolphin's head?'*

Ian Ambrose recalls, *'Tiswas? 'Twas a wet and windy Saturday in 1981 when we trooped down to Central TV studios in Birmingham to go through a routine with the producer for a following show - I think we'd written in to suggest it after seeing some other dancers on the show. I have a vivid memory of walking round the back of the set bumping into various guests such as Noddy Holder while trying to find someone to give us some idea of what we were supposed to do. We were eventually sent off to the canteen to rehearse and refine a pie throwing dance (How do you do Sir? I think). Eventually we were watched and while they deliberated some stayed in the canteen and some wandered back to the set. While we were aimlessly wandering where we weren't supposed to be, a production assistant's voice called out "All on stage for the next piece.....Morrismen.....". John Walker and I, who were the only Dolphin's in sight were ushered onto the set where we stood with a group extras and guests in fancy dress waving our bells while being sprayed with water. Several friends claim not only to have seen this but also to have seen us lurking in the wings. After our television debut we repaired to the canteen where we found Dave Ledsam deep in conversation with a very drunk Garry Glitter, who it transpired, was performing in Nottingham a week or so later. He seemed to think it would be a good wheeze if*

Dolphin did a spot in his show. Dave brought him over and introduced him and some sort of deal was done - we never heard from him again! We were paid for our efforts that day and shortly afterwards received a letter saying that they were sorry but were unable to use our contribution in the show, with a further cheque to cover the inconvenience. Hence we are the only Morris side to have been banned by the BBC and paid not to appear on Tiswas!

Two days after the 'Show' Bob Hine wrote a letter to the producer Glyn Edwards at ATV thanking them for a 'very interesting and energetic morning on Saturday'. Bob also included details of the dance 'How do you do sir?'



Left: Detail from Bob's copy letter to Glyn Edwards showing the layout of the dance set. Lionel Bacon would have been proud and Cecil Sharp too.



Above: On the set of TISWAS Ian with his bell pads in his hand, and John Walker and both looking suitably bemused, waiting to be 'watered down'.

Below: Ian waving his bells and presumably being showered for comedic effect



So Dolphin's TV debut ended up as Ian and John waving their bells damply and no explanation to the millions of viewers tuned in to the programme as to why a couple of Morris Dancers are there.

The film footage of the dance performance and of the Dolphin two might still be carefully preserved in a canister somewhere waiting to be pulled out and used in some meaningful way in the future.

The Christmas Social was at Terry Paling's house in Arnold on Tuesday 29th December 1981. An expenditure sheet in the archive shows that almost £80 was spent on Drinks (£48) and food (£31.58)

Bob Hine's one sheet breakdown of the summer tours programme for 1981 is reproduced at the end of this chapter.

Below: Bob Hine's tours list 1981 with handwritten comments:

| <u>DOLPHIN THURSDAY EVENING TOURS 1981</u> | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| MAY 7 | Plough Diseworth Cross Keys, C. Donington 3 H'shoes, Hemington | 4.20 (2.27) 4.99½ (4.00½) 3.03 (4.25½) | | A cloudy evening after earlier rain; good audience at first stop; second OK but few came out; good session at last stop and free beer from landlady. [10] |
| | | 12.22½ | | |
| MAY 14 | New White Bull, Giltbrook Crown, Awwsworth Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston | 1.49½ (6.25) 2.05 - 4.52 (6.79) | | Fine sunny evening but few people because of replay of Cup final on TV; Landlord bought a round at R.C. - good session - other rather a waste of time. [9] |
| | | 8.06½ | | |
| MAY 21 | Bradmore Village White Lion, Rempstone Windmill, Wymeswold | 15.34½ - 5.72 (3.99) 1.94½ (7.62) | | Professional round Bradmore village (a through someone's home!) practically whole village moved out; good audience at Rempstone; Wymeswold fine. [13] |
| | | 23.01 | | |
| MAY 28 | Half Crown, Long Eaton Bridge Inn, " " Bulls Head, Breaston | 3.06½ (2.73½) 8.53½ (8.85) 6.07½ (3.78) | | Fine evening - quite warm. [14] |
| | | 17-67½ | | |
| JUNE 4 | Barton Village Cuckoo Bush, Gotham Star, West Leake | 2.34 (4.01) 4.31½ (3.88) 2.23½ (2.08½) | | A heavily overcast evening but didn't rain free beer at Barton; no collection made at Star: adjourned to Station for indoor dancing and singing. [13] |
| | | 8.89 | | |
| JUNE 11 | White House, Kegworth Cap & Stocking, Kegworth Station Hotel, Kegworth | 2.26 - 4.77½ - 4.85 - | | Very overcast - late start at White House, waiting for men; rained when we arrived at CAS; good crowd at Station - but no room for a session. [12] |
| | | 11.88½ | | |
| JUNE 18 | Foresters, Borrowash Travellers Rest, Draycott White Lion, Sandiacre | 5.83½ (6.54) 2.48½ (3.80) 6.45½ (9.82½) | | Pleasant sunny evening; pubs not packed a W.L. not informed. [13] |
| | | 14.77½ | | |
| JUNE 25 | Horse & Jockey, Selston Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe | 3.39 (5.9½) 5.06½ (7.47) | | Cold evening, but good humoured audience at Selston; good session at Bagthorpe landlady bought beer: songs & indoor dancing. [9] |
| | | 8.45½ | | |
| JULY 2 | Nags Head, Woodborough Worlds End, Lowdham Unicorn, Gunthorpe | (4.51) - (7.77½) | | Handful of people at W.; Americans at Lowdham; reasonable audience at G - special Brighton Camp. |
| | | 15.01½ | | |
| JULY 9 | Yew Tree, Brinsley Hole i/t Wall, Underwood Gate Inn, Westwood | 3.21 (2.36½) 9.15 (3.66) 6.70 (4.73½) | | [10] Cloudy - drizzle at Underwood; good audience at Brinsley - otherwise fine. [9] |
| | | 19.06 | | |
| JULY 16 | Clifton Village Ruddington Village Green (White Horse end) Ferry, Wilford | 9.61 (4.24½) 6.36 (6.76) 7.73 (9.37) | | [10] Beautiful clear sunny evening; procession around Clifton - good audience; good also at Ruddington; house crowd & beer garden at Wilford. [11] |
| | | 23.70 | | |
| JULY 23 | Hemlockstone, Wollaton Broad Oak, Strelley | 3.23 (21.15) 3.92 (10.30) | | [10] Miserable. Cloudy, cold, drizzle. Danced under cover at Wollaton. A few hardy individuals watched. [12] |
| | | 7.15 | | |
| JULY 30 | Navigation, Sawley Harrington Arms, Sawley Malt Shovel, Shardlow | (11.79) (5.98½) (7.98½) | | Fine sunny evening: late start at Sawley but good crowd; quite good at HA; enjoyable stop at MS. |
| | | 19.80½ | | |

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

1982 - excellent level of support and commitment

At the 1982 AGM Bob Hine in his Bagman's report states that, *'This has probably been the busiest year on record for the side, made possible by the excellent level of support and commitment'*.

Unfortunately little has been kept of an archival nature to back up Bob's assertion

Saturday April 24th 1982 and Dolphin were at their fundraising again in Lister Gate. £120 was added to team funds through the men's efforts.

Arnold May Day celebrations organised by the Bendigo Folk Club at last falls on the 1st of May in 1982 and it only took five years. Usual format of a procession and then dancing at various spots.

All proceeds went to charity and in 1982 The Ewing School for the Deaf benefited.



Above: Dolphin dancing in the pedestrian precinct in Arnold

As always the side carried out a full programme of Thursday night pub tours during the summer of 1982. Again, unusually for Dolphin, a few random photographs were taken at the pub tours and kept with the scrapbook information.

Dolphin men, as far as information is available, always managed to complete their summer tour fixtures and sometimes on time!

Here are a few of the photographs from the 1982 Thursday night tours;



Bradmore Village May 6th



Crown, Awworth May 13th



Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston May 13th



Plough, Diseworth May 20th

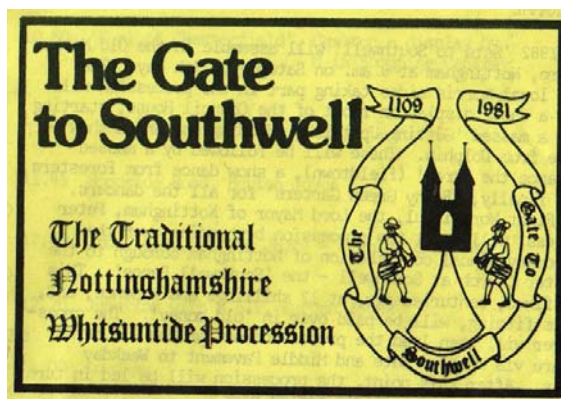


Bridge Inn, Long Eaton May 27th

Saturday 29th May 1982 was the date of the second 'Gate to Southwell' procession. Teams attending in 1982 were as in 1981: Dolphin Morris Men, Foresters Morris Men, Clifton Grove Morris Men and Micklebarrow Morris Men but in this year they were joined by Broadstone Morris Men of Retford.

After the procession and service at Southwell Minster the participants were provided with a free pint of beer courtesy of The Home Brewery.

Later in the day a feast and ceilidh was held at Rolleston village hall. All proceeds from the Gate went to the 'Smile Don't Stare fund', organised by the Friends of the Greenwood Children's Centre at the City Hospital. £1320 was raised, helped along by excellent weather on the day.



In 1982 Terry Paling arranged for a limited number of pottery 'Gate' tankards to be fired and also a 'one off' Gate plate which was presented to Bob and Anne Hine. Bob had been the driving force behind the recreation of the Southwell Procession and this was just to say 'thank you'. Bob still proudly displays the plate at home.

Bank Holiday Monday May 31st 1982 was Gotham Gala and Dolphin were booked to provide two displays in the afternoon.



Above: Here we see the Lichfield 'hockle back' in all its glory



Above: ...and now a Bampton 'pram push' or 'chicken chase'

Below: Three days later Thursday 3rd May 1982 the side can be seen at The Star at West Leake



A small but appreciative audience stayed and watched the performance.

Thaxted 1982 and Dolphin Morris are now firmly established as regulars at this event . In 1982 it was on during the weekend of June 4th to 6th



Above: *The procession into Thaxted led by Bert Cleaver. Various Dolphins can be seen.*

On tour Thursday 10th June 1982 in Kegworth



Left: *Foster Arms*



Left: *Cap & Stocking*

June 26th 1982 was the Sutton Bonington Day of dance. The only reference to the day states, 'A.M. Sutton Bonington, P.M. Loughborough'. The AGM accounts sheet only shows that £21 was paid out for lunch.



Various views from the day of dance.



Right; newspaper caption that accompanied the photograph reads, 'Six year old Rebecca Goldstraw was whisked off her feet when she met the merry men of the morris in Churchgate Loughborough. Putting on a show in the pedestrian area were the Dolphin Morris Men who meet in Sutton Bonington and Kingston-upon-Soar'.

July 23rd, 24th and 25th 1982 was the Hartley Ring Meeting. Dolphin under the leadership of tour guide Little Dave (as opposed to Long, Hairy or Porky Dave or Dave five) were seated in a 1937 Dennis Lancet II single deck 36 seater which had originally been used by the East Kent Bus Co – information but no photograph!

The tour included dancing spots at;

Hartley,

The Green Man (a Fremlin's pub at Hodsall Street

The Black Horse at Stanstead (and lunch).

There was a massed display at Tonbridge on the Castle lawn before returning to Wrotham for the feast. Then more dancing at the hall or a tour of Wrotham pubs with Little Dave.

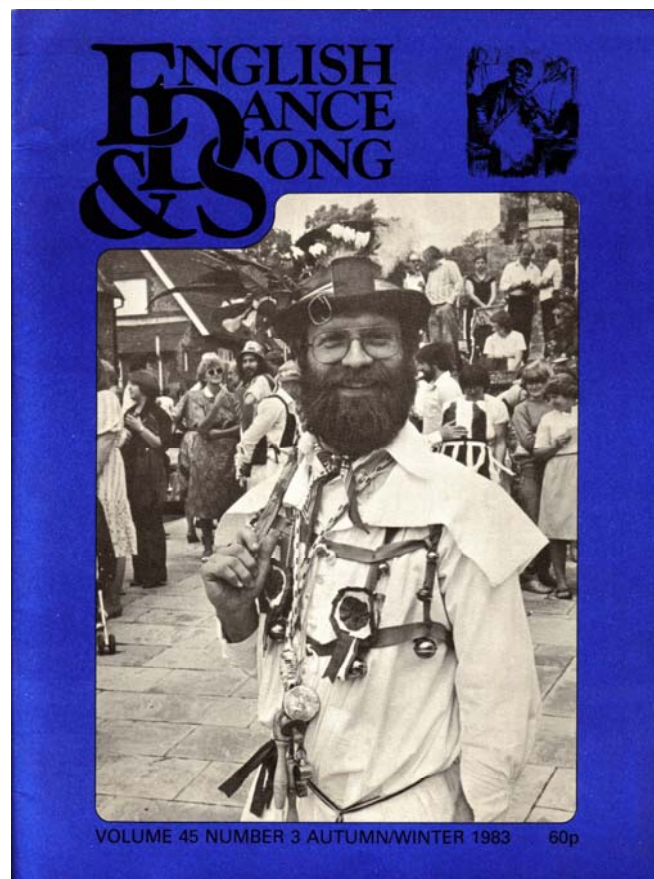
A total of sixteen teams and over 200 dancers attended.

The single sheet programme of the Hartley Weekend gives details of 'How to recognise a Morris Man'. Under the entry for 'Dolphin Morris Men' it says, 'White shirt and trousers, straw hats with red & green ribbons, red and green baldricks. Known as the Nottingham Nutters, from whence they came with their blue and yellow dolphin, they are saving Whales'.



Left: The cover design for the programme

Below: Cover picture of *E D & S* showing Dolphin's own Ian Ambrose on the right shoulder of the Hartley Fool



Monday August 28th 1982 and Dolphin performed at 'Greenbelt 82'



Above: Kids were a bit of a nuisance, always getting under your feet!



Above: Black & white photographs from Greenbelt '82 recovered from a proof sheet in the Dolphin archive



Above:...and they also performed in colour

On Monday 30th August 1982 a Medieval Market was organised in the Old Market Square, Nottingham. This was the first market to be held there since 1928 and several dance teams were booked including Dolphin Morris Men, as the poster shows;



Saturday 11th September 1982 was the Dolphin Day of Dance and Harvest Supper. This had been an all male feast in previous years but for the first time Dolphin invited the ladies of the Greenwood Clog Step Dancers.



The caption reads, '*Ladies of Greenwood Clog and Step Dancers performing their traditional dances to an audience of Morrismen from Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and other parts of the country including Kent. The dancers got together for an end of season tour of local pubs in the south Nottinghamshire area. Here they can be seen at the White Lion at Rempstone.*'

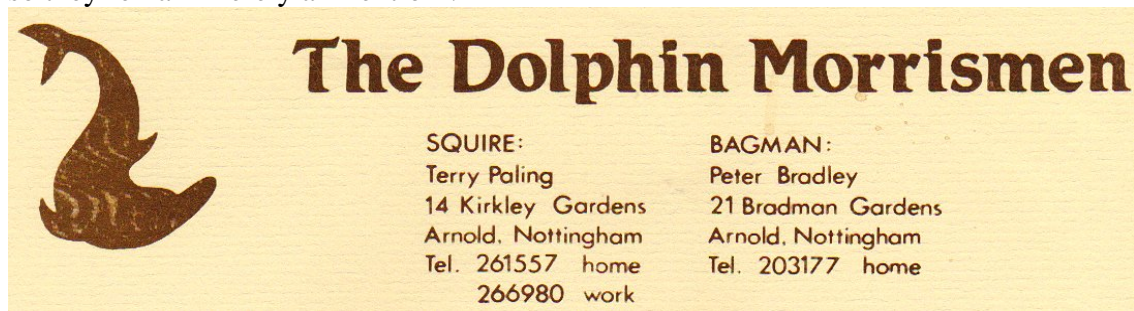
Teams in the photograph include, White Boar Morris Men, Leicester Morris Men, Hartley Morris Men (Kent) and Dolphin Morris Men and Greenwood Clog.

In the Bagman's report at the AGM Bob Hine writes, '*Our feast, held in mid-September, was fortunate in having good weather for the leisurely day-time tour. The feast was held as usual in Kingston on Soar, with our usual caterers who again provided an excellent meal. The ladies side – Greenwood Clog – attended; this break with tradition was generally considered successful.*'

The AGM took place on 23rd September 1982. The Bagman Bob reports that, '*The paid up membership for the year was 22, about the same as in previous years. Average attendance for practices/tours/gigs was about 13 – 2 up on last year, for Thursday night tours the average was about 14.*'

The membership remained similar to 1981 with the addition of Nick Murphy and Chris Orme, but with the loss of Ian Brammall and Stephen Gee. Bob notes that Steve Davies and Sam Taylor were occasional dancers.

A number of events are mentioned in the Bagman's report, and as single entries on various documents during the year but no further information about them is known and so they remain merely a 'mention'.



Above: The new Squire and Bagman share their own headed notepaper

Ian Stewart put out a winter practice document in which he points out that the 'potential show standard' traditions will be, Bampton, Bledington, Fieldtown and Headington. It was decided that practice time would also be given over to doing one or two sets that could be used for such occasions as fetes when a 'quick, high-standard show was required for non-Morris audiences'.

Saturday 4th December 1982 was the date of the Broad Marsh fundraising performance in Lister Gate.



'Hoverin' John Walker

Ian Stewart tries out the white polo-neck shirt again!



Steve smokes his pipe while Joe gets his wallet out to buy a round

Information to hand suggests that Chris Orme was the only new member in 1982. Records show that Martin Morley was a 'paid up member' of Dolphin but he in fact took a 'sabbatical' and would return to the fold again in 1989.

Bob Hine once more produced a breakdown of pub tours with individual comments

DOLPHIN THURSDAY EVENING TOURS 1982

| | | 1982 | 1981 | |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| MAY 6 | Bradmore Village White Lion, Rempstone Packe Arms, Hoton 20-62½ | 7-38½ 5-45½ 7-78½ | (15) (6) - | Cool but dry evening after a showery day; good crowd at Bradmore, followed in round village & sizeable audience braved cold at Rempstone. Only a few party onto outside Packe - some danced inside. |
| MAY 13 | Grown, Aysworth Rutland Cottage, Ilkeston 13-18½ | 5-86 7-32½ | (2) (5) | Warm, sunny, perfect May evening. Good crowd at Aysworth, and as ever the R.S. was packed. 2 sides up at Aysworth. At R.L. danced on grass, incl. motorbike Free Dance. |
| MAY 20 | Plough, Diseworth 3 Horseshoes, Hemmington 13-73 | 5-14 8-59 | (4) (3) | Rather overcast evening but dry and mild. Small but generous audience at Diseworth. Large and appreciative audience at H., incl. many from Joke Club. |
| MAY 27 | Half Crown, Long Eaton Bridge Inn, Long Eaton White Lion, Sandiacre 15-24½ | nil 6-43½ 8-81 | (3) (9) (6) | Thundershower at about 7pm washed out first stop: fortunately, Martin's potato promised only merrin mashes - which we ate. Quiet at 8 Inn because of Captain's trophy. Good service at White Lion - soap & muni in back room! |
| JUNE 3 | Barton Village Star, West Leake Station, Kegworth 18-26½ | 1-52 8-58½ 8-16 | (2) (2) (5) | Warm sunny evening. Barton small gathering - provided beer. Star moderate audience; good at Station. |
| JUNE 10 | Fosters Arms, Kegworth Cap & Stocking, Kegworth Old Plough, Sutton Bonington 17-49½ | 2-65½ 7-70 7-14 | - (5) - | Fine evening but cooler than of late. Small but good humored audience at FA. C&S - good crowd in street - some David Greenbacks. Old Plough - well populated, but coolish. |
| JUNE 17 | Nag's Head, Woodborough World's End, Lowdham Unicorn, Gunthorpe 22-10½ | 4-29 5-96 11-85½ | (15) | NH - small audience (World Cup) but good atmosphere, dancing good. W.E. not many about but fair stop (Fosters had been here on Monday) Unicorn - wive muni took break; afterwards at Anchor. |
| JUNE 24 | Red Lion, Underwood Horse & Jockey, Selston Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe 17-36 | 6-13½ 5-79 5-43½ | - (3) (5) | After very wet week - a dry but overcast evening. Small audience at R.L. joined by 2 Selton Holligans. H&J good audience despite World Cup. Dixie's good muni session (free beer/Jan A. dominated bag). |
| JULY 1 | Willow Tree, West Bridgford Air Hostess, Tollerton Griffin Inn, Plumtree 26-20½ | 4-80 9-68½ 11-72 | - - - | Newston. Mild but overcast evening, after wet week. 6 men from Clifton. Small audience/generous landlord at AH. Large clientele at G Inn - not many came out - muni session made + Brighton Camp. |
| JULY 8 | The Burnt Stump, B.S. Park Griffin's Head, Papplewick Horse & Groom, Linby 19-99½ | 7-93 6-87½ 5-19 | - - - | Beautiful, hot summer's evening. First two stops good audiences. Third stop not so good. R.S. very nice parkland setting. 7 men - others on conference big at S.B. |
| JULY 15 | Clifton Village Ruddington Village Green Ferry, Wilford 18-00 | | (10) (6) (8) | Overcast day - looked set for wet evening but held off - clear but cool. Quite good audience at Mans. Tank - transferred to Clifton Green - only handful of onlookers. Small but cheerful audience at Rudd. Bright day for birthday girl. Very deserted at first hen muni. Muni session. |
| JULY 22 | Hemlockstone, Wollaton Broad Oak, Strelley 17-24½ | 11-07 6-17½ | (3) (4) | Pleasant evening: good audience at Hemlockstone, average/average audience at Strelley. |
| JULY 29 | Navigation, Trent Lock Harrington Arms, Sawley Malt Shovel, Shardlow 14-82 | 8-23 2-13 4-46 | (12) (6) (8) | Very pleasant, warm evening. Very good aged audience at N. Poor at H.A. Dark at M.S. |
| SB Day 26 June | | £234.31½ | (10) | |
| dry but cloudy: good audience at Charnwood Fields; £17.87 | | | at 71½ | + £43.24½ in Loughborough. |

This would be the last of these individual lists

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Not much is known about 1983 but the Gate to Southwell got a new banner.

The middle years of the 1980's seem to have been and gone with little in the way of photographic or documentary evidence being collected or saved. There seems to be no logical reason for this as membership levels appear to be high and attendance seems to have been reasonable (those that have been recorded anyway).

A copy of the practice rota for Spring 1983 has survived. It was drawn up by Ian Stewart, as far as possible to ensure that all traditions got practiced before the summer tours began.

The rota alternated between:

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| 10 Feb | Show and occasionals |
| 17 Feb | Bampton, Headington |
| 24 Feb | Fieldtown |
| 3 Mar | Bledington |

This rolling programme continued through to 28 April when a 'Show + occasionals' session put the final polish on the presentation.

Ian finished with, *'Here's what I'd like to see dealt with in practices;*

Making sure of the repertoire – what dances we know and can do in each tradition, and making sure the ones we are going to dance out are regularly practiced

Sorting out the SLOWS in various traditions.

Checking we are doing a proper MORRIS STEP

Checking that everybody is dancing IN TIME TO THE MUSIC, especially in slows, hook-legs and galleys.

Standing up to dance, good balance and “presence” – see the Colin Fleming article on this..

In April 1983 the usual fundraising performance took place at Lister Gate and a few photographs survive to remember the occasion by. St Georges Day fell on a Saturday in 1983 so it is presumed that this was on the 23rd April:



Above: *Dave Ledsam, Nick Murphy and Terry Paling provide the music while Roy Dyson collects from the crowd*



Above: *The men disposed of their handkerchiefs for a bit of nose tweaking!*

Saturday 21st May 1983 and it is the third Gate to Southwell. Again, as in 1982, five teams were there to recreate this ancient custom. The teams this year were, Dolphin Morris Men, Foresters Morris Men, Broadstone Morris Men, Selston Morris Men and 'Owd 'Oss Mummers. The 'Gate' this year got a new banner which was made by Pete Bradley and his wife Jo



The new banner

Proceeds from this years Gate again went to the 'Smile Don't Stare' fund.

Thursday 26th May 1983 while out on tour the side danced at The Plough at Diseworth



and The Three Horseshoes at Hemington



The annual visit to Thaxted was on the weekend of June 4th and 5th 1983





The Sutton Bonington day of dance was on June 25th 1983 and a photograph of Pat Brett appeared in a local newspaper;

Fooling around



The caption that accompanied the picture reads, *'An unusual sight which perhaps captured the imagination of visitors to the Kingston-on-Soar village fair at the weekend. The feathered fool pictured here was Pat Brett performing with the Dolphin Morris Men for the afternoon's festivities'.*

More photographs from the day...





As usual a full Thursday night tour list was kept and there is no reason to suppose that any of the nights would have been cancelled. There are a few photographs from a few pub tours but several went unrecorded.

There is a suggestion that the side attended a 'Leicester Jubilee weekend' in June and that a side attended the Newcastle Mini Ring Meeting in July but nothing further is known about these events.

Information to hand suggests that Mike Wilkinson and Chris Deuchar became members in September of 1983 and that Bob Kear left the side the same year.

Below is the timeline entry for 1983 showing all that is known about events attended. Some of the entries are from comments in Bob Hine's paperwork and Hicky Cheers diaries but are not backed up with supportive evidence.

1983...

The 'Gate' gets a new banner (Pete & Jo Bradley designed and made it)

Mike Wilkinson joins side (September)

Chris Deucher joins side

Bob Kear leaves Dolphin (according to Chris Deuchar)

| | |
|--|---|
| Jan 21 st -23 rd | Jigs Instructional ?? (Bobs bundle) |
| Apr ??? | Broad Marsh - fundraising |
| May 12 th | Tour: Awworth and Ilkeston (Hicky's diary) |
| May 21 st | 3 rd Gate to Southwell |
| May 26 th | Tour: Plough, Diseworth/3 Horseshoes, Hemington/ Hemington Folk Club |
| Jun 2 nd | Tour: Barton Village, The Star W/Leake, Station, Kegworth |
| Jun 4 th -5 th | Thaxted |
| Jun 9 th | Tour: White House, Kegworth/Cap & Stocking, Kegworth Old Plough, Sutton Bonington |
| Jun 16 th | Tour: Carpenters Arms, Dale abbey/Stanhope Arms, Stanhope/ Bulls Head, Little Hallam |
| Jun 17 th -19 th | Leicester Jubilee weekend ?? (Bobs Bundle) |
| Jun 23 rd | Tour: Red Lion, Underwood/Horse & Jockey, Selston/ Dixie's Arms, Bagthorpe |
| Jun 25 th | Sutton Bonington Day of Dance/Kingston on Soar Fete |
| Jun 30 th | Tour: Bradmore village/Plough, Wysall/Red Lion, Costock |

Jul 1st-3rd Newcastle Mini Ring Meeting ?? (Bobs bundle)
Jul 7th Tour: Hemlockstone, Wollaton/Broad Oak, Strelley
Jul 14th Tour: Burnt Stump, Burnt Stump Park/Griffins Head, Papplewick/
Horse & Groom, Linby
Jul 21st Tour: Plough, Normanton, Griffin, Plumtree
Salutation, Keyworth
Jul 28th Tour: Steamboat & Navigation, Trent Lock/Dog & Duck, Shardlow

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Not much is known about 1984 either

In all the years since the Dolphin Morris Men began 1984 is the one where least information exists. The usual Summer tour list of pub stops has not been retained and there is no information as to bookings that the side would have taken on in the year. Most of the information that does exist is unconfirmed or merely speculative.

The first record is of the fundraising day in Lister Gate. The collection permit tells us that April 21st was chosen. A few photographs (two) exist of the day.



Above: Looks like a 'Dearest Dicky' is in progress



Above: The earliest photograph so far of Mike Wilkinson dancing. Flowers of Edinburgh, on correct knee but no baldrick yet!

Dolphin attended the Thaxted Ring Meeting which took place on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of June. A few photographs have once more been taken and retained in the archive.



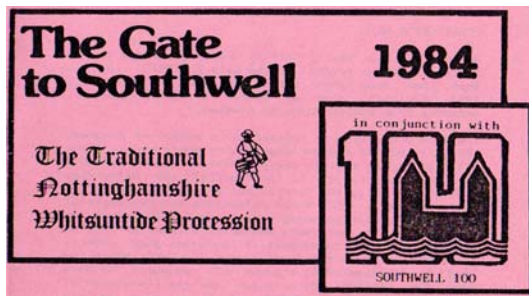
Photographs of Thaxted.

Top left and right, and middle left were supplied by Chris Orme who appears in the foreground top left.

Left. Richard Hine (Bob's lad), seen here proudly wearing his Dolphin baldrick – a mark I badge made of felt and mark I braid.

This baldrick and badge now resides in the Dolphin scrapbook as a reminder of those early days.

Richard could apparently give anyone a 'run' for his money, having a nice turn of speed on those racing crutches, and was not bad at arm wrestling either!



Left; Logo from cover of the 1984 Gate programme

Whit-Saturday 1984 fell on 16th June. The programme tells us that the 1984 Gate to Southwell procession is special for a number of reasons:

1. *All the Nottinghamshire Mens Morris sides will be taking part and we extend a warm welcome to Mansfield and the University teams.*
2. *The Gate is being held in conjunction Southwell 100, which celebrates the centenary of Southwell Minster becoming a Cathedral.*
3. *Expected to have more sponsored walkers than before and also more Morris dancers.*
4. *As well as the 'Smile don't Stare' walkers there will be a group of sponsored walkers from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children which is also in its centenary year.*
5. *The NSPCC is organising a Medieval Fayre at the Old Rectory, Thurgarton*

Dancing sides taking part in the procession are;

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Dolphin Morris Men</i> | <i>Selston Morris Men</i> |
| <i>Foresters Morris Men</i> | <i>University Morris Men</i> |
| <i>Micklebarrow Morris Men</i> | <i>Mansfield Morris Men</i> |
| <i>Broadstone Morris Men</i> | <i>Calverton Morris Men</i> |

Aidley's Morris Dancers provided displays at the Medieval Fayre but not on the Gate procession itself.



Above: *The procession arrives at the Medieval Fayre*



Above: *Outside the Minster*

Amounts raised included; Smile Don't Stare £460, NSPCC £385 plus £500 from the Medieval Fayre, Minster Centenary £100 from their stall.



Above: *Bob Hine, Ted Hutchby and the banner arriving at The Minster*



July 13th to 15th 1984, The Greensleeves Morris Men organised a Ring Meeting at the village of Chipperfield in Hertfordshire. This was an annual weekend event that was upgraded to Ring Meeting status but in reality little extra work would be required to host it.

Invited teams included; Dolphin Morris, Green Man's Morris, East Surry Morris, Barnsley Longsword, Wyvern Morris and Newcastle Morris Men.

Dolphin toured on the Saturday with Green Man and danced at; Penn Place, Rickmansworth; Fishery Inn and Steam Coach, Boxmoor; Bank Court, and Hemel Hempstead.

In the evening after the feast Dolphin joined Barnsley and danced at; The Two Brewers, Chipperfield; Bricklayers Arms, Flaunden; and The Plough, Belsize.

Saturday 15th September 1984 was a Dolphin day of dancing followed by a Harvest supper/feast. Photographs show that Dolphin danced out in West Bridgford with Aidley's Clog Dancers.

Letters of thanks show that Leicester Morris Men sent along a few of their men to the supper, Mercia Morris attended and it appears representatives of Sgt Musgraves and Greenwood Clog dancers were also there.

Although there is no record it is presumed that the supper would as usual be held at Kingston-on-Soar Village Hall.

A receipt in the archive shows that Nick Murphy booked the Rushcliffe Borough Council 'Croquet Lawn' at a cost of £2.50p. Neither Nick nor the archive has any idea why this should be so and in the event the Croquet Lawn appears not to have been used?

There are some photographs of Dolphin and Aidleys dancing during the day



Above: Aidley's stand by as Dolphin dance



Above: Aidley's continue to stand by as Dolphin continue to entertain



and again! No one seems to have photographed Aidley's!

Four photographs supplied by Chris Orme show that Dolphin danced at The Trip to Jerusalem, but no date is known, although the sun appears to have shone! By some coincidence Chris appears in three out of the four photographs supplied!



Chris poses for the camera



Terry, Ted and Nick also pose



Preparing to dance 'Three Jolly Black Sheepskins' around their pint pots

The AGM took place on Wednesday 19th September 1984. There is a handwritten set of minutes, but no reports from Squire or Bagman have been kept.

The notes show that the Foreman, *'didn't know a foreman's report was required'*.

The keeper of the scrapbook, *'moaned about lack of photographs'!!*

John Sweeney proposed a vote of thanks for a *'super SB'* (nothing else is known other than this remark).

Ted Hutchby was voted in as Squire. Nick Murphy was voted as new Bagman.

Joe Oskiewick was voted in as Deputy Squire. Ian Ambrose took over as keeper of the scrapbook.

In 'any other business' John Sweeney mentioned that 24 sticks had disappeared! Suggestions included, *'ask Wocko to get some more'*, to *'each man bring one stick'* and *'Buy them!'...* 'What??'

The question arose of what to do with surplus beer from the feast/supper. Ian Stewart suggested (surprisingly) that it be drunk...at the next practice. Presumably Ian's suggestion was carried out (hopefully Ian was not carried out).

The meeting closed at 9.29pm when, if tradition was complied with, the men went to the pub for further discussion about beer. Nothing was noted.

Saturday 1st December 1984 and once more the men are fundraising on Lister Gate, photographs show that the sun shone, at least some of the time.



Above: *Dave Walters seen without baldrick badge crosses with Ted Hutchby and Simon Haydock stands on the right awaiting his turn. Dave and Simon had both joined Dolphin in October of 1984.*

Saturday 8th December 1984 and NTMC hold a Christmas ceilidh, Dolphin were there and at the AGM Ted Hutchby had asked for someone to come up with a novelty dance for the show. There is no record of the novelty dance chosen.

While the ceilidh was happening three Dolphins were receiving instruction in the art of dancing Sherborne. The instructional weekend (7th – 9th December) was held at Yateley and Ian Stewart, Nick Murphy and Ian Ambrose attended.

Dolphin held a Christmas social evening on December 28th.

In October 1984 Dave Walters and Simon Haydock both joined Dolphin and by coincidence both would eventually become Bagmen of the side.

The 1984 timeline of events seen below is all that is known about Dolphin's activities in that year. It is Dolphin's worst year for record keeping. Hope remains that a secret stash of 'lost' paperwork will turn up one day to fill in the gaps.

1984...

Ted Hutchby becomes 7th Squire at AGM

Nick Murphy becomes 5th Bagman at AGM

Dave Walters joins side (late in year)

Simon Haydock joins side

Terry Paling ceased dancing

| | |
|--|---|
| Apr 21 st | Broadmarsh Listergate, fundraising |
| Jun 2 nd -3 rd | Thaxted |
| Jun 16 th | 4 th Gate to Southwell |
| Jul 13 th -15 th | Chipperfield Ring Meeting (206 th) |
| Sep 15 th | Hire of Croquet Lawn (Rushcliffe BC)/Harvest Supper |
| Sep 19 th | AGM |
| Nov 2 nd | Aidleys Feast (?) |
| Dec 1 st | Broadmarsh Lister Gate fundraising |
| Dec 8 th | NTMC ceilidh with Flash packet ? |
| Dec 7 th -9 th | Sherborne Instructional, Yateley Centre |
| Dec ? | Dolphin perform Mumming Play ? |
| Dec 20 th | Dolphin Christmas Carols (?) |
| Dec 28 th | Dolphin Christmas Social (?) |

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

1985 – ‘insalubriousness, clod-hopping superficiality and tedium vitae!’

Plough Monday 1985 fell on January 7th. The Dolphin men went out and performed a Mummings play at several places but at The Salutation Keyworth photographic evidence exists!



Ted Hutchby had made a balsa wood axe out of balsa wood but while no one was looking Chris Villiers switched it for a real one for comedic effect! Mike is showing Chris where to make the first cut whilst distracting Ted's attention with a funnel. Is there a Doctor in the house?



Above Left: No expense was spared to make the kit look authentic, here are Old Father Christmas and the Turkish Knight. Right: Old Beelzebub, with his dripping pan and club.



Above: *That's not kit Ian Ambrose is wearing, just a little poncho he had crocheted in his spare time.*

The play was such a success that it was never repeated ever again.

Saturday 2nd February 1985 and Dolphin were once more guests of Leicester Morris Men at their annual feast at Markfield Institute.



Above: *Ted Hutchby adopts a Squirely pose while John Whitelaw is caught trying to sneak out without paying and is forced to hand over a cheque to Charlie Corcoran*
 The Leicester Feast was not all fun though, there was some drunken unpleasantness involving a team from the Kesteven Morris Men. Ted, as Squire of the Dolphin, took a

dim view and wrote to Ray King, the then Squire of the Ring who promised to enquire into the matter. It appears that some Kesteven men were rudely talking loudly while Father Kenneth Loveless was singing, 'Green Grow the Rushes Oh'. A number of subtle hints were given but to no avail so Geoff Halford of Leicester Morris removed the subtlety and was pushed to the ground by a loud talking and aggressive Kesteven Morris Man. The Leicester Men took hold of the man and bodily threw him into a patch of nettles outside and firmly locked the door. The Kesteven side had their associate membership of the Morris Ring revoked as a result of the complaints. It is felt that the letter from Dolphin only formed a small part of the revocation and that perhaps Father Kenneth's influence may have carried a little more weight, but that is only a guess.



Above: Men seated at the feast with John Whitelaw and Pat Tribensee facing the camera in the foreground and Wocko towards the back making a rude gesture with two of the fingers of his right hand!

Mike Wilkinson recalls the Leicester feast of 1985 for another reason, 'I was sitting opposite Ian Stewart during the meal. There was a lot of "horseplay" going on in the room (rolls being thrown etc) and there was a lively atmosphere. Being young and foolish, I hadn't picked up any warning signs that it might degenerate into something nasty. I can't be sure whether I flicked some cream off my spoon at Ian, or whether I made as if to do so. Whatever I did, Ian's response was to pick up a big dollop of cream on his spoon and pretend he was about to flick it at me. We were sitting not far from Kenneth Loveless, and Kenneth missed whatever I had done, but saw what Ian was doing. In his distinctive loud rolling tones, Kenneth declared these exact words (with a twinkle in his eye): "Jock Stewart! I'm surprised at you, my boy!" Ian curled up with embarrassment like a choirboy caught reading "Razzle" in church'.

Ian Stewart recalls, 'And I can still remember those very words that Rev Ken addressed to me as I prepared to flick the cream (I wasn't just pretending, I really meant to flick it) – but my face must have turned very red as Ken ticked me off in his best Deaconly manner'.

Phil Wrigley decided that he had to leave Nottingham after 9½ years and organised a ceilidh to celebrate the fact. He invited Dolphin and partners with the proviso that they provide some dancing during the evening. Dolphin did more than dance. Phil sent a letter of thanks, *'for coming along last night and stealing the show with your dance spot and play'*.

An engraved wine carafe was presented to Phil and his wife Judith as a leaving present. Phil didn't actually leave, due to a change of plan, but eventually he did go and there was another party!

April 20th and Lister Gate echoed to the music and stick clashing of Dolphin on their annual fundraising 'tour' of this location. The date always coincided with the nearest Saturday to St George's Day but this was never put in writing it was merely the way it was always done.

One week later, Saturday 27th April 1985 and Dolphin are doing their traditional guard of honour At the wedding of Mike Wilkinson to Miss Jane Madden at Edwalton Church.



Of the wedding...Mike recalls, *'It was a cold late April day. The service itself was fairly unmemorable, except for my friend Helen playing Clarke's Trumpet voluntary, which is approximately long enough for a bride with a wooden leg to climb the bell tower carrying a set of new bells'*.

Mike goes on (some say), *'After the service, there was a Dolphin guard of honour with Morris sticks...it started to snow, ruining my silk tie'*.

The reception was at West Park Pavillion and 'Flash Packet' provided the music while Roy Dyson did the calling for the dances. Ted Hutchby, in full fools costume, was MC, and started the speeches by banging a stick on the table and when he had everyone's attention, he muttered apologetically, "I'm sorry, I couldn't get the salt out of the little hole in the end". Mike's speech was excruciatingly bad, and the icing on the cake was,

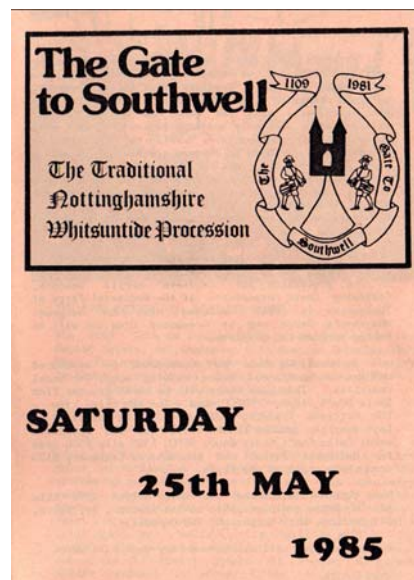
'resilient' (according to Mike). The bride wore stockings which ended up torn and laddered (according to Mike), but not through anything he did, (according to Mike). The ceilidh was 'bloody good fun' and somewhere there lurks a ciné film of the occasion!

The happy couple moved to Attenborough which is apparently still there.

The fifth Gate to Southwell was on May 25th 1985.

Teams attending that year were:

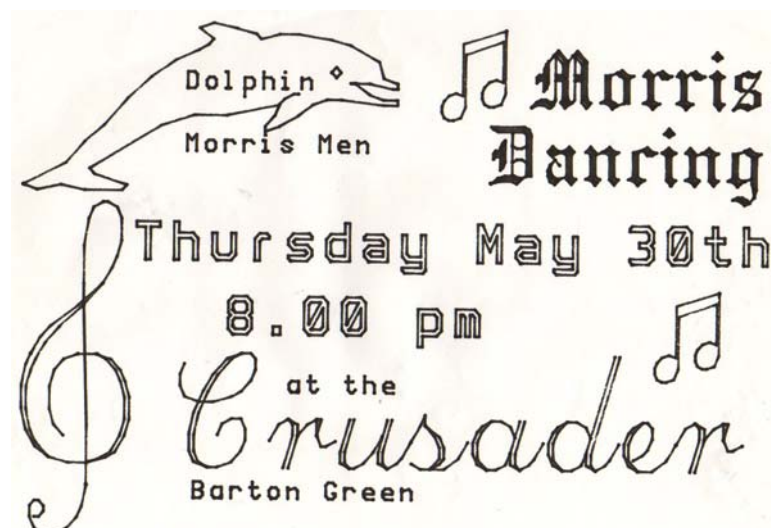
- Dolphin Morris Men
- Foresters Morris Men
- Broadstone Morris Men
- Selston Morris Men
- Calverton Morris Men
- The University side
- Aidley's Morris Dancers
- Sergeant Musgrave's Dance
- Greenwood Clog



Sponsored walkers included people from, 'Smile Don't Stare' (raised £886), NSPCC, and The Portland Training College for the Disabled (raised £200).



Above: Programme cover and a flyer for the event



New style posters come into use for the pub tour on May 30th. They were designed by John Sweeney on his computer and were only used for a couple of years.

The fifty-second Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting took place on the weekend of 1st and 2nd June 1985. As usual Dolphin Morris Men were there along with twenty four other teams.



Above: 'Camp Dolphin'



Above: *Ted at the Fox & Hounds, Steeple Bumpstead.*

Left: *Richard Hine looking every inch a Dolphin and sporting that baldrick again. Taking lunch at The Bull.*



Dolphin were on Tour 'A'

- 10.00 Rose & Crown, Hemsptead
- 10.45 Fox & Hounds, Steeple Bumpstead
- 11.45 The Bull, Haverhill
- 14.40 Fox, Finchingfield
- 15.30 Town Street, Great Bardfield
- 17.45 Guildhall, Thaxted
- 21.30 Guildhall, Thaxted

The story of the Bradmore plaque



Saturday June 8th was the date of the unveiling of the Bradmore Plaque to commemorate the Bradmore Morris dancers of 1618. This is the story of how it came to be.

Bob Hine had been a Dolphin Morris Man almost but not quite since the formation of the team in January 1968. He had lodged with Ian Stewart and when the side was short Bob was persuaded to 'fill in' until a full side was mustered. This eventually led to Bob joining as a permanent arrangement. He continued as a member, always supportive and always there at the big occasions but working quietly and diligently in the background. It was in 1979 that Bob took over as Bagman of Dolphin Morris Men and it was also at that time that his profile within the side began to gain momentum.

Bob an academic decided that he would research Morris Dancing within Nottinghamshire and see what evidence he could find about our local dancing ancestors. What he found was to set the wheels in motion for several projects that would eventually come to fruition and for which Bob (and Dolphin Morris) can be justly proud.

The first concrete result of his labours was the production of his booklet, 'The Dolphin Guide to Local Villages & Dances'. This booklet is fully described in Chapter 13.

The second result was the discovery of information about a Southwell Procession dating back to 1109 and which would eventually lead to the re-creation of the Gate to Southwell. The Gate is fully described in Chapter 14.

The third result was the production of a plaque commemorating the Morris Dancers who in 1618 had been fined for Morris Dancing on the Sabbath. This offence occurred at Bradmore and the names of the six dancers and two musicians was still there in the records of the church court.

Records about Morris Dancing in those early times are in themselves rare but to have the names of what looked like a complete and extant team was nothing short of remarkable.

The 1980 booklet carried a single sentence about the men of Bradmore, *'The church courts cracked down on morris dancing on Sundays, and a number of Nottinghamshire men were fined for this offence in 1618, including men from Wollaton, Lenton, Ruddington, Bradmore and Wysall'*.

In June 1983 Bob wrote a letter to Mrs Hooley of Bradmore Parish council. In his letter he indicates that the Dolphin Morris Men, *'are hoping to visit Bradmore again this year'*, and he goes on, *'Our visit is in fact quite imminent, since we plan to come next Thursday, 30th June, at 8 p.m'*. Bob asked if she could assist with some publicity for the planned visit.

The letter then goes on to say, *'Since last year, I have done a little research into the Bradmore Morris team of 1619(sic), mentioned in the church records. The parish registers go back 50 or so years earlier, and it was possible to trace the births, deaths, and marriages of the dance team and their families. My records are not complete, but they do give a reasonably clear picture, showing the ages, place of birth and in some cases occupations of the dancers ... there were no male descendants of the dancers still living in the village beyond 1700'*.

I think this information is of considerable interest to people involved in the history of folk dance in this country and may also be of some interest to people in the village'.

Bob goes on further, *'...and it occurred to me that it might be appropriate to have some commemoration of the team of dancers. It is very rare for any record to survive which names people who took part in folk dancing before the nineteenth century. I wonder if your Parish council would consider the possibility of erecting a commemorative plaque in honour of the morris dancers of 1619(sic)'*.

Dolphin archives revealed that performances had been given on May 21st 1981 and again on May 6th 1982. These visits were obviously as a direct result of the discovery of information about the Bradmore dancers and were some of the preliminary steps to the eventual erection of a permanent plaque in the village.

The records that started the ball rolling make interesting reading and any modern day researcher, who is also a morris dancer, could be excused for being more than a little excited at the discovery.

In an item dated 21st October, 1618, in the **'Archdeaconry MSS. Presentment Bill. 295.'** It reads,

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

Thomas Bond, his marke.

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

f.125d. 2th October 1618.

William Hartley "lay cooper" of Wolloughton.

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

Richard Mee of Wolloughton.

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

f.140, 7th November, 1618.

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

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

John Butler of the same 'for the like'.

Pleaded guilty. Dismissed.

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

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

Richard Roberdes of the same 'for the same'.

Pleaded guilty. Dismissed with a warning.

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

Ralph Lees of Wisaw 'for the same'.

To be cited afresh for that day fortnight.

f. 152d. 25th December, 1618.

Ralph Lees of Wisawe. Excommunicated.

Register 28. f.146d.

21st November, 1618.

Henry Oldershawe of Bradmore 'a morrise dauncer'. v. et m.

f.148d. 25th November, 161.

5th December, 1618.

Edward Creswell of Bradmore 'for a morris dauncer'.

'His wife is with child before marriage'. v. et m.

f.151d. 5th December, 1618.

Henry Oldershawe of Bradmore 'a morrise dauncer or a looker on'.

Excommunicated.

Edward Creswell of the same 'for the same'. Excommunicated.

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

Bob began his research into the names that he had discovered and was fortunate in that the parish registers were still in existence and also that they went back 50 or so years earlier. Much research stops at this point simply because the records have been lost, wantonly destroyed, been damaged by fire or water ingress, or sometimes eaten by vermin. Bob researched the family trees' of the men at Bradmore:

Hugh Longley was born in 1597. Little is known of him but he was obviously connected with a family which possessed some land, and some of it at least freehold. Hugh's marriage is not recorded but in 1620 he had a son, William, and then two other children. At the time of the court case he would have been about 21 years old and probably still unmarried.

Gervase Goulding was born in 1590. He was unmarried at the time of the court case but married in 1619 to Jane Bond. He died in 1627 leaving four children. He would have been about 28 years old in 1618.

John Butler was the son of Jervace Butler of Boney [Bunny]. The Butlers appear to have moved to the parish at the end of the 16th century and four children are recorded as being christened in Bunny. John may have been born before the move to the parish. John married Joan Hutchinson in 1612 and would have had two children at the time of the court case, with a further three born subsequently. He was probably in his late 20's at the time of the court case.

Hugh Foster took out a marriage licence on December 8th 1604 (or 1609) and married Elizabeth Marshall the next day. At that time he came from Boney but in 1617 and 1620 a Hugh Foster was the manorial neatherd (in charge of the cows) for Bradmore. If this is the right Hugh, he would have had four children by the time of the court case. In 1620 he was noted as a tenant and member of the manorial jury at Bradmore. In 1634 a Hugh was presented at the manorial court of Boney as 'a common fisherman' and 'he caught fish in the water called Boney Brook against the rule and made dams and prevented the course of the water'. If this is the correct Hugh Foster he would have been in his 30's at the time of the court case.

Harrold Maples married Mary Warde of Bradmore in November 1615. The first record of a Maples in the Parish was in October 1618 when Herod Maples was presented to the manorial court of Bradmore for tethering three 'beass against orders'. So Harrold would have been in his 20's at the time of the court case.

Richard Roberts is described by Bob as very obscure and may not have been from Boney at all. He could have been an apprentice, domestic servant or living-in labourer. A very tentative family tree would suggest that a Richard Roberts was born in May 1579 which would then make him probably in his late 30's.

Bob states, *'The only thing I am certain about is that none of the morris dancers were at the time of the court case, major tenants, office holders in the parish or manor, or men of much consequence'*, and suggests that men such as those would have had too much to lose to risk offending authority.

Bob asks in another document, *'Who were the Bradmore morris dancers? Were they a proper village team, performing the morris at Whitsuntide in the traditional way, or were they a bunch of young tearaways getting into trouble with their elders? The evidence suggests that they were a genuine team. To begin with, there were six of them, and this is the standard number for an English morris team. According to the Parish registers at the time, the youngest was about 20 and the oldest about 40 and the team had an average age of about 31. This points to a well established group. Interestingly, they all had different surnames, though two of them were related by marriage (Harrold Mapples was married to Jarvis Goulding's sister). Most of the Bradmore dancers had*

surnames which had been around in the village for some time, and at least four of them were born in the village – they were locals not outsiders’.

Bob goes on to say, ‘*After 1618 there is no further record of morris dancing at Bradmore, nor indeed in Nottinghamshire as a whole’.*

In May of 1618 King James I had issued his ‘Book of sports’ in which were allowed, ‘*May Games, Whitsun-Ales, and Morris dances, and the setting up of Maypoles and other sports therewith used’.* The proviso was, ‘*So as the same to be had in due and convenient time, without impediment or neglect of divine service’.*

This was the outcome of pressure from puritan Magistrates and Church officials intent on reforming the Sabbath, and harassment by them of the sports of the ordinary people.

Bob discovered further entries in the **Archdeaconry MSS. Presentment Bills. 295.** Prior to those of 1618 i.e.

Register 19, f.84d.

14th May 1613.

Gervase Whitehead of Ruddington ‘for cominge to Clifton and alluring the people to prophane gods service by playenge upon a paire of bagpipes’.

Dismissed with a warning.

Register 22, f.35.

18th May 1616.

Henry Oldershaw of Wolloughton ‘for ringing hoggs on the Sabaoth daye’.

Pleaded not guilty. To purge himself.

A letter dated 12th September 1983 from Mrs Hooley of Bradmore Parish Council suggested that there was some interest in Bob’s idea for a commemorative plaque. They would need to know, the form it would take, the cost, and where it might be erected etc. It was suggested that bob attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss his proposals

Handwritten notes show that Bob obtained some prices ranging from £50 in formica to £85 in anodised aluminium to £150 for stainless steel/bronze/ceramic. This would include 100 words and two figures.



In the meantime a Mr Daniell of Bradmore had come forward and was willing to make and donate the plaque. A few design features were to be sorted out and by November 1984 all seemed to be going smoothly. Mr Daniell would make the plaque, and the date for the official unveiling was set for June 8th 1985. Mrs Daniell was to Officially unveil the plaque on the day.

The programme for the day shows:

5.30pm

Unveiling of Bradmore plaque by Mrs Daniell



dance display by Dolphin Morris Men



and Aidley's Morris Dancers



6.15pm Judging of children's 17th century fancy dress costume; Punch and Judy show



6.45pm dance procession around the village

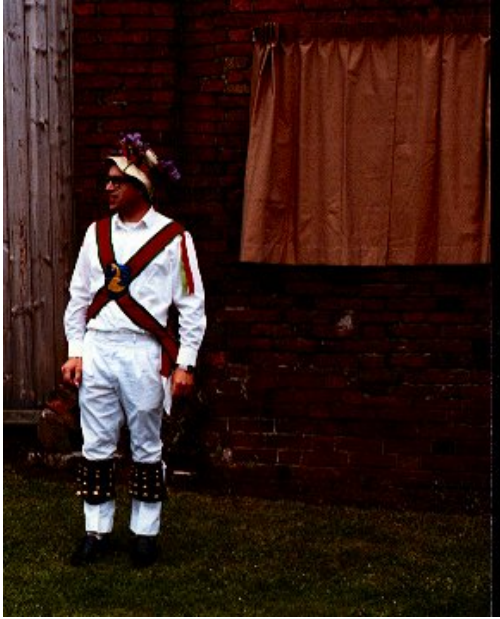


7.30pm dance, barbeque and entertainments in Graeme Radcliffe's Barn, Farmer Street

More photographs from the day



Above: The villagers assemble



Left: Bob saying a few words of introduction before the official unveiling



Right: Bob and Anne Hine in front of the plaque



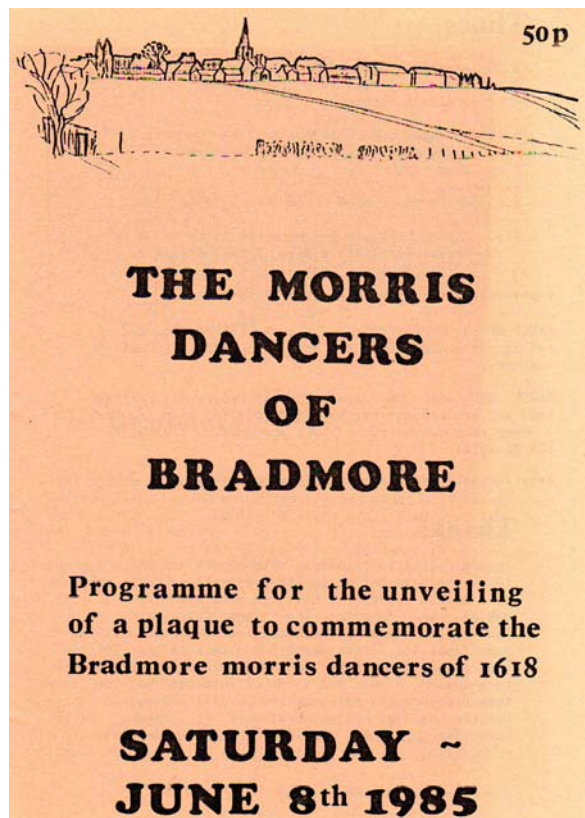
Left: Ted Hutchby entertains the crowds:

Naomi and Richard Hine can be seen clearly enjoying one of Ted's jokes

Right: the cover of the programme sold on the day and which acted as the 'ticket' into the barn dance and barbeque. It was produced and illustrated by Bob himself.

Bob records his thanks with the words,

'I would like to record my warm thanks to all those who have helped in the preparation for this event, especially to John Daniell for making and donating the plaque; to Mrs Daniell for agreeing to unveil it; to Graeme and Eileen Radcliffe for allowing us to place the plaque on their wall and to



use their barn for our dance; and to other members of “The Bradmore Plaque committee” – Jill Brown, Dorothy Hooley, Peter Northeast, Mike Peregrine and John Starling for their ideas, enthusiasm, wit and effort.

Bob Hine (Dolphin Morrismen)

None of this would have happened without Bob having the original thought to go out and seek for the references to Morris Dancing in Nottinghamshire in the first place. But more than that for his ability to run with the idea and over a period of more than five years entuse a group of people to bring the project to this remarkable conclusion. Well done Bob.

A letter was sent to Bob by Mrs Hooley of Bradmore Parish Council after the unveiling and dated 12th June 1985...

Dear Bob,

This isn't an official letter, but just a big “Thank-you” from all of us on the little sub-committee for everything you did to make Saturday such a success.

It has been quite a long haul since you first wrote me in April 1982, but I don't think we lost out over the delay and it was important to get the plaque right. I think everyone agrees it is excellent.

I think everyone who joined in on Saturday thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings. As you said, we know how to live with our English weather! Will you please thank your team, the lady clog dancers, the ceilidh band, Ted, and everyone else for their contributions to the enjoyment and success. We shall look forward to seeing you again.

*Kindest regards to yourself and Anne
& love to Richard, Naomi, and Sophie.*

Yours Sincerely,

Dorothy

Dolphin made a point of dancing in Bradmore village every year from 1986 until 1997 and on several occasions The Maids of Clifton Clog Dancers are recorded as accompanying Dolphin.

At the 1985 AGM Ted Hutchby in his Squires report to the meeting states, ‘Bradmore was another Bob orientated occasion. Dolphin would be a lot different side without this guy. Thanks again Bob’.



Sunday 9th June and Dolphin enter a team for a 10k road race around Nottingham City Centre!
NOTTINGHAM HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF RACES



A press cutting from the Evening Post states,
'Ten Dolphins have entered the Heritage Festival of Races, organised by Rotary International and Holme Pierrepont Jogging and Running club to raise funds for the Nottingham Hospitals Scanner appeal Fund. The ten are members of a folk group who plan to dance round the course through the City centre on June 9'.

In a letter from Nick Murphy to the Evening Post he states, *'The team will be attempting to dance the course wearing full Morris kit (bells handkerchiefs etc) with the musician being pushed in a wheelchair (It isn't possible to play and run at the same time!). We anticipate having a lot of fun that afternoon and expect that the public will enjoy the spectacle also'.*



Britannia Park was a good idea that never quite worked. It started with much hype and big plans for continued development and then faded into bankruptcy.

Ripley Morris Men, being the local side, were approached by the management and asked to provide, on a regular basis, dance sides to perform at the Park. Generous remuneration was given to teams who did perform, and presumably Ripley made it pay also.

Dolphin Morris Men were booked to perform on Sunday 30th June 1985 for a reduced fee of £100 because they could only stay until 6.00pm. The normal rate was £150 for the day.

BRITANNIA PARK
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Britannia Park Showcase of Britain

Britannia Park is the Showcase of Britain

Opens 27th June

July 13 – 14th 1985 was a Derbyshire Camping weekend organised by Nick Murphy. Dolphin were joined on the weekend by Aidley's Morris Dancers and Sergeant Musgrave's Dance, both clog sides. This appears to be the first in the series of such weekends.

The 1985 AGM took place on Thursday 19th September as usual at Kingston on Soar Village Hall. The minutes were not taken or have not survived.

Highlights from Ted Hutchby's Squires report include:

'Dolphin has – despite the weather – shone. We have taken on both old and new with equal vigour, and it's been fun'.

'Practices were on the whole well attended and a lot of hard work put into them. Timing was as ever not so good – nuff said'.

'Unfortunately the poor old repertoire did suffer dreadfully. Towards the end of the year we tended to be dragging out the same old dances. I think this could be dangerous for the side. A lack of variety leads to a lack of interest and eventually insalubriousness, clod-hopping superficiality and tedium vitae'.

'Thaxted. Well I have never enjoyed the Morris as much as I did at Thaxted. I don't think I shall miss the event ever again'.

'It's a shame that what we mentioned earlier happened down here (Thaxted). The Police have invited me to go down there again. They would like me to give a talk about the 'new' tradition of throwing the aluminium barrel through shop windows'.

'Mick's (Mike Wilkinson) night out (stag do) was very much in Dolphin style. All I want to say about that is that sitting next to an unexploded bomb is like sitting next to a very inebriated Mick in an Indian restaurant. What a wedding. Happy the bridegroom the snow falls on'.

'Ian's idea of dancing the marathon was another gud un. Some of us need a bit of training before we try again. Still the number of spot prizes to the number of men taking part was astounding. Thanks Ian'.

Nick Murphy's Bagmans report shows that there were just 18 paid up members which included Adam Hutchby, a junior member of the side.

Nick included, *'I could write pages about our activities, but shall instead show the years diary'!!!* Researchers in the future will grit their teeth when they read that, and again as they search in vain for the years diary!

Nick's report mentions the Plough Play at Keyworth with a collection of £9.30p but he also mentions Ilkeston and a collection of £8.93 – this is the only mention of a performance at Ilkeston! It is also understood that a practice play was performed at The Station but no other information is known at the time of writing.

Ian Stewart, in his foreman's report, was generally happy with the way the season had gone. He did however have some bad and some good news to impart. His bad news included, *'Heavy footed stepping, looking down not up, failure to perform for the audience, and not enough attention to hands'.* His good news included, *'vigorous style of dance, without any 'London-style flailing'.*

Morris Aid



This was a joint venture between Roy Dyson of Sgt Musgrave's Dance and Barbara Murphy of Aidley's Morris. The intention was to raise money for the stricken areas of Africa and the choice of name was to signify a sympathy, if not an association, with the aims of 'Live Aid and Band aid'.

Teams that took part in 'Morris Aid' on Saturday 12th October 1985 included;

Aidley's Morris, Dolphin Morris Men, Foresters Morris Men,

Greenwood Clog Dancers, Mercia Morris, Leen Valley Morris, Maids of Clifton, Nottingham Poklers

Step Clog, Nottingham Poklers NW, Nottingham Pride Clog Morris, Sgt Musgrave's Dance.

Photographs from the Morris Aid Day





Saturday 12th October 1985 and Dave Ledsam was married to Stephanie at East Leake Dolphin attended and danced. Information and photographs have yet to be obtained.

NTMC held their Christmas ceilidh at West Park Pavilion. Advance notice shows the ceilidh band to be Flash Packet and then points out that there will be '*Roy Dyson plus other attractions*'.

Information to hand suggests that the new member for 1985 was Chris Gigg but he can't really remember and it might have been 1986!

CHAPTER NINETEEN

1986 and Mike blows a chicken

Dolphin volunteered to host an officers weekend from January 17th to 19th 1986. The weekend was entitled *'The Not Just For Club Officers Weekend'* and was held at Cropwell Butler & Tythby Village Hall. It was a chance to discuss the problems of being a Squire, Bagman or Foreman i.e. style, technique, team policy, discipline, running shows, team finances, publicity and archival work etc.

Geoff Jerram in his letter thanking Dolphin for the offer to host the weekend uses the phrase, 'another officers weekend' suggesting that Dolphin had done one before. There is no record of it in the archive.

The weekend must have gone off with no problems as at the Area Representatives Meeting (ARM) in March the Squire, Ray King, thanked all the teams who had run or hosted instructionals.

Saturday 1st February 1986 Dolphin attended the Annual Leicester Morris Men Feast at Markfield Miners Institute. The cost had remained at £5 for five years and included Hoskins ale. Dolphin's complaint, about the last feast where fighting broke out, had not prevented us getting an invite, but Kesteven were strangely absent.

At the ARM Broadstone Morris Men had been admitted to membership of the Morris Ring. Broadstone had attended and danced at The Gate to Southwell since 1982 and Dolphin had supported their application for membership. A letter of thanks had been received from Broadstone Morris Men and is in the Dolphin archive.

Saturday 19th April 1986 and Dolphin have a collecting permit, unusually, for Wheeler Gate, but still danced in Lister Gate. In the event, Bertie Bassett turned up with his bucket!



Above: *Nick appears to have recognised Bertie, but isn't keen to make a donation.*





Dave Walters



Ian Stewart



A young Mike Wilkinson

DOLPHIN MORRISMEN 24 HOUR WORLD RECORD MORRIS DANCE

Saturday 3rd May 1986 and Dolphin join in with the annual Bendigo Folk Club May Day charity procession and dancing around Arnold Town Centre. At the conclusion the Dolphin men climbed onto an open flat-back truck and begin to dance. The truck slowly moved away and travelled towards London Road. The Men were by then continuously dancing and had started their twenty four hour dance marathon. The intention, through sponsorship, was to raise money for the purchase of special wheel chairs for Richard and Naomi Hine.

The Tile Warehouse gave permission, and the keys to the premises, for Dolphin to perform their marathon Morris dance inside and on open view to anyone who cared to go along and watch. The premises, has a large window that was well lit.

The event raised the money, and more, but the official recorders and adjudicators from the Guinness Book of Records were conspicuous by their absence. To this day the record goes unrecognized and there is no one alive who remembers it, except those old Dolphin Men who often sit and reminisce over a pint or two and ask the question, 'What if?'

West Notts. and Derbyshire Recorder, April 24 1986 5

Generous folk help children

NOTTS "folkies" are banding together to help raise money for Richard and Naomi Hines, whose plight was revealed in the RECORDER earlier this year.

Both children are suffering from a rare disorder which makes walking difficult. An appeal was set up to raise £3,000 for a special electric wheelchair.

Now the folk singers, dancers and musicians of Nottinghamshire have set up their own appeal fund and have already banked over £700 with the promise of at least that much again.

PUBLICITY

Terry Paling, of Kirkley Gardens, Arnold, said: "We really must thank the RECORDER for your initial publicity and interest."

"We in the folk music world have known the parents and the children for many years and, although, we knew of the children's handicap, we were not aware of the situation regarding the wheelchair until your article."

Smash and grab

Another success for your caring Recorder

On Sunday, local folk singer Roy Harris and his wife Elaine took sponsorship for the appeal to run the London Marathon while Chris Plant agreed to do a sponsored parachute drop.

Other events already completed for the fund include a pub-crawl, a record attempt by the Calverton Morrismen which gained national publicity, and coffee mornings.

There is a grand raffle to be drawn after "Nottingham's Own" Ceilidh, following the Arnold May Day parade on May 3.

"We are going to try to raise the whole £3,000 and the Hine family hope to have the special wheelchair by mid-May," added Mr Paling.

"If anyone would like to make donations, our bank account number is Midland Bank, 16 Bath Street, Sneinton Market, Sorting Code number 40-35-17, account number 63054888."

Firemen from Beeston and Stapleford have raised £270 for the appeal with donations given after the sudden death of their station officer Mr John Briggs.

● Richard and Naomi Hine

In the end no Guinness Book of Records entry but over £300 was raised by the men's efforts and two wheelchairs were purchased. The Marathon dance attempt was part of a series of fund raising activities which included coffee evenings, disco's, charity evenings and dancing down a coal mine and in an aeroplane. The folk community got behind the project and in the end twice as much money was raised as was originally sought through events and individual sponsorship. It was a superb effort by all those that were involved.

John Sweeney recalls; 'We started dancing in the morning - I think it was somewhere like Arnold - there was a local event which we joined in I think.'

The dancing was non-stop - as soon as six men finished doing a dance another six men started the next one - often with some of the men from the previous dance joining in the new dance. If another set dance wasn't ready then someone started dancing a jig. I would even play the music for my own jig to ensure that we kept going - I think Ian S and Laurence did the same.

We travelled into Nottingham on a small, open flat-bed truck so that the men could keep dancing all the time. We did numerous stops around Nottingham - the evening is a bit hazy - I guess we did some more pubs!

We spent the night in the shop window of a shop on London Road (a tile shop? bathroom shop?). Various people drifted off as the night went on - there was a hard-core of half-a-dozen who stayed all night I think. I left around 2am to get some sleep at home (I only lived a couple of miles away). I got back at 6am to find them all asleep apart from Edward (Hutchby). Edward was dancing a Lichfield dance (Vandals?). He was dancing the whole dance through to his own humming, eight times. He danced it through as number 1 then started again as number 2, and worked his way through so that he danced the whole dance from every position!

Eventually men drifted back or woke up and we finished the 24 hours with some exuberant dancing'.

John Whitelaw recalling the dance marathon says, 'I think that this was the last time I "danced out". I couldn't make it during the daytime but turned up at night to help give others a break with a few jigs. I adapted Dearest Dickie, Fieldtown, to make a one man jig in six parts, including the corners, and stayed until the early hours. The next morning (Sunday) I was a bit stiff. By Monday I had seized up solid and had three days in bed with "Morris Man's knee". My boss was not impressed. It was at this stage that I decided that the Gods were trying to tell me something'.

Morris Men dance off with record


MORRIS Dancers from a Nottinghamshire pit village have sunk to a new low — to top the record charts.

Dancing 600 yards below ground at Calverton Colliery, they set a world record for Morris Dancing at the greatest depth — and boosted funds to buy a special motorised wheelchair for two handicapped children.

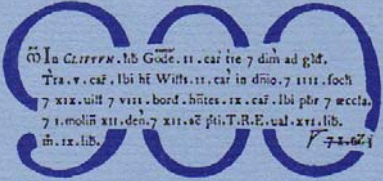
And to complete a double record fling they are now planning to take to the air in a giant Hercules aircraft to register the highest-ever effort.

A member of the Calverton Morris Men who hotfooted their way into the record books with the pit-bottom performance, development header Paul Prior says: "We had talked about going for a record and this must be one of the most unlikely spots for dancing.

"At the same time we have all been sponsored for a fair bit of money to aim for £3,000 to help get the wheelchair for Richard, nine, and Naomi, seven, the children of Bob Hine, who is himself a Morris Man."



CALVERTON undermanager Jez Leeming cannot believe the Morris Men's get-up as they present themselves for the record attempt.



FESTIVAL 1986

ST MARY'S CHURCH

CLIFTON

NOTTINGHAM

Translation of the above extract from the 'Domesday Book' - 1086
 In Clifton lastness 978a had 23 . . . of last taxable, 1 set for 5 ploughs, 1 mill for 2 ploughs, 1 Incubator and 4 fireweas, 70 villagers and 8 smallholders who have 6 ploughs. A priest and a church 1 mill, 1000 meadow, 12 acres. Value before 1086 . . . 4700 now 470.

The Clifton 900 May Day Celebrations (to celebrate 900 years of its entry in the domesday book) took place on May 5th and on

May 7th a Folk/Arts evening was held. John Sweeney was the local contact, living in Clifton at the time, and put forward the Dolphin Men to take part. There were initial

difficulties as the organisers thought the Dolphin fee of £50, ‘rather exhorbitant’ and went on, ‘especially as the Maids of Clifton are only asking £25 to cover their travelling expenses’! (They did have to travel from, erm, Clifton didn’t they?). Dolphin’s conscience was pricked sufficiently, and it was sorted out by John Sweeney. The side did attend and perform and didn’t just do the normal Morris –



Above: Here we see Ted Hutchby and his lovely assistant Mike Wilkinson. Ted announced that he was going to eat fire, but at the last minute he spit it out, and none too soon by the look of it.



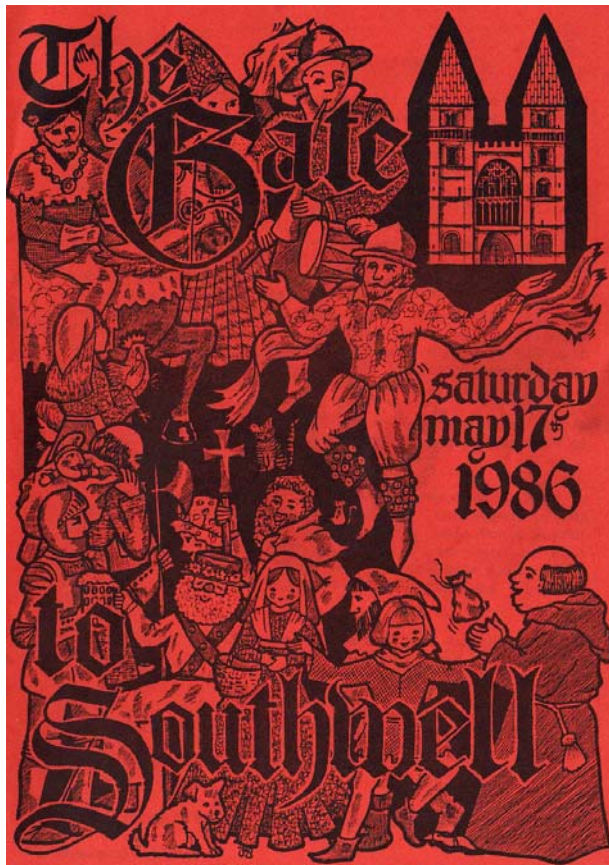
Left: The Dolphin Men did their traditional stuff as well, but had to walk round and think about it first.



Above: Nick Murphy and Joe Oskiewicz played their music all miked up



Above: and the men forcefully wielded their sticks



Saturday May 17th 1986 and the Gate was already six years old as a revival event and showing no sign of flagging.

Even the pamphlet that was produced yearly was getting more ambitious and the picture on the front was a marvellous myriad of Morris, Medieval and Minsterly madcap mayhem.

Participating sides were;

Dolphin, Foresters, Broadstone, Selston, Calverton, Aidley's, Sergeant Musgrave's Dance, Greenwood Clog, and Leen Valley.

1986 was the 900th anniversary of William the Conqueror's Domesday Book written just twenty three years before the original Gate to Southwell came into being and the pamphlet carried an article about it.

Moneys raised included individual sponsorship for

Mrs J. Farr of £1450 for the Nottinghamshire branch of the NSPCC. 'Smile Don't Stare' raised £800, and £80 towards an electric wheelchair for Joanne Clifton.

In 1986 Thaxted Morris Men were celebrating their 75th year as a revival side, having started in 1911. This was their 53rd Thaxted Ring Meeting, the first one being in 1927 and there had been a Ring Meeting every year since, except for the years of the Second World War; the only club with such a record. Dolphin Morris Men were there as usual.





Above: The men strike an interesting pose for the camera



...and again later in the day to show that it wasn't just a fluke!

After the success of the first Derbyshire Weekend in 1985 it was decided to repeat the event in 1986 but this time only Dolphin and Aidley's went. The weekend of 20th – 22nd June was chosen and the campsite was based at The Waterloo, in the village of Biggin. Friday night involved dancing at The Manifold Hotel at Hulme End.

Saturday's itinerary took in Tissington at 11.15am, 12.15pm at The George Alstonefield (and lunch), 1.30pm at The Devonshire Arms at Hartington, Returning to Biggin to perform at the Carnival. 6pm saw the teams processing around the village before an evening barbeque at the camp-site.

On Sunday there was a short display at The Waterloo Inn and at 1pm dancing at The Crown at Wensley.



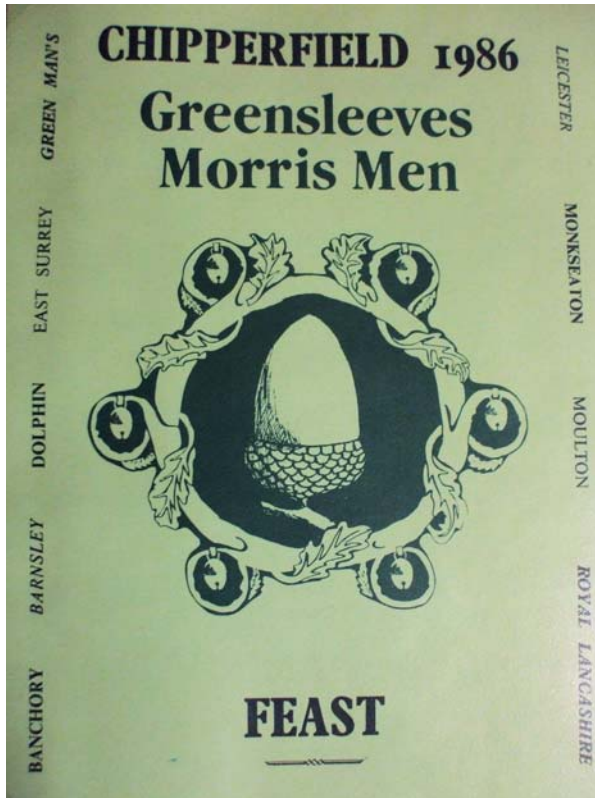
Above: Aidley's dancing at Hartington



Above: both sides at The George, Alstonefield



Above: The boys couldn't resist climbing the tree at The George



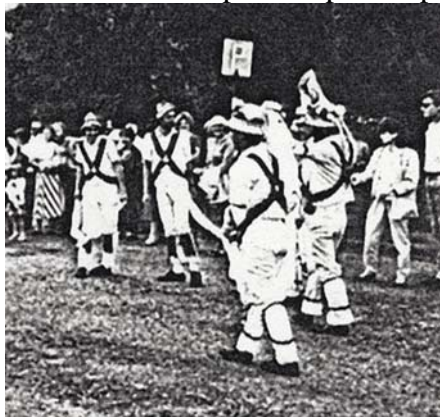
1986 was a year for anniversary's. Greensleeves Morris Men who had started in 1926 were 60 years old and organised a weekend of dance to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Dolphin of course were invited to attend, and sent along a team.

During the daytime on Saturday, Dolphin were paired with Green Man and danced at,
 10.00am Penn Place, Rickmansworth
 11.00am Halfway House, Rickmansworth
 12.15pm Denham – Massed Show
 15.00pm Parish Church, Amersham
 On Saturday evening, the side was paired with Moulton and danced at,
 19.45pm Boot, Tower Hill
 21.00pm Green Dragon, Flaunden
 On Sunday paired with Royal Lancashire Dolphin danced at,

11.00am Chipperfield – Massed Show

13.00pm Windmill, Chipperfield

A few black and white photocopies of photographs exist within the archive.





STANDON
MORRIS MEN



ANNUAL
DAY OF DANCE
&
FEAST

13th SEPTEMBER 1986

Dolphin went to the Standon Morris Men ‘day’ of dance, which was actually a full weekend around September 13th 1986. The letter of invite states, ‘*Following our successful joint tour at Thaxted last year, where nobody actually came to blows, we wondered if you would care to join us on our day of dance on 13th September.*’ Later in the letter Barry Warner writes, ‘*...but we’d like to see you for the weekend if possible.*’ Dolphin went for the weekend.



Transport was by vintage double-decker bus.

Other teams attending were,

Newcastle Morris Men
Bedford Morris Men
Thaxted Morris Men
Standon Morris Men
And Mike Garland





Above: John Sweeney started strongly but soon faded. It could have been the Rayment's Ale at the feast!

In September 1986 Dolphin and Calverton Morris Men performed at a Steam Fair the location of which remains a mystery.



From photographs there do not seem to be too many Dolphins at this event



Above: There might only have been two in fact... Ian Ambrose and Mike Wilkinson

The AGM on 18th September 1986 was attended by fourteen Dolphins with apologies from two others. The minutes show that Ted Hutchby was proposed for the position of Squire, Bagman, Keeper of Scrapbook, Padre, and Deputy Squire. It appears that Ted declined all positions. This potential shortfall in staff was averted when Joe Oskiewicz was elected Squire, Nick Murphy as Bagman, Ian Ambrose and Mike Wilkinson became joint keepers of the scrapbooks and Ken Osborn became Deputy Squire. The position of Padre appears to have been left open and unfilled. Dave Walters agreed to be the stick man.

A number of votes took place regarding possible changes to kit and the results were;
Straw hats beat Jockey caps by 8 to 5.
Collared shirts beat collarless by 5 to 4.
Neckerchiefs were in by 9 to 3.
Woggles were out by 8 to 5.
Trousers should be jeans.
Black belts should be standard.
Black shoes and white socks.
Tabards for cold weather were 5 to 4 in favour with 5 abstentions.
Dolphin umbrella was decided upon.

In any other business it was decided that the link with NTMC should stay, and that the side should purchase a Squire's tankard

The Bagman, Nick Murphy, in his report recalled the big feast of Thaxted and Chipperfield *'(where Dolphin did much to enhance their good reputation)'*. Nick also recalls that *'Standon was really good'*.

Further highlights were to occur before the year came to an end.

Thursday 2nd October 1986 and Father Kenneth Loveless, V.R.D., F.S.A., F.S.A. (Scot.), Hon. R.N.R. President of the Chalice Morris Men attended a Dolphin practice.



Thursday 23rd October saw the new Squire of the Ring Geoff Jerram attending a Dolphin practice.

Nick Murphy provided accommodation and in his letter of thanks Geoff pointed out, *'It is fairly rare to be able to visit a club on their own ground without the formalities of feasts and other such occasions, and it gives me a much better insight into how a club thinks and works'*.

'It was also a particularly enjoyable evening for me – it's years since I've danced any Ilmington'.

In finishing off his letter Geoff added, *'Thanks also, once again, for putting me up for the night – I didn't really mean to clean you out of breakfast cereal!'*

The Photograph of Geoff Jerram is taken from the nomination form when applying for the office of Squire of the Ring.

More 'Ring' based shinnanigans took place on the weekend of 28th to 30th November 1986 when Dolphin hosted a Headington instructional at the Memorial Hall at Cropwell

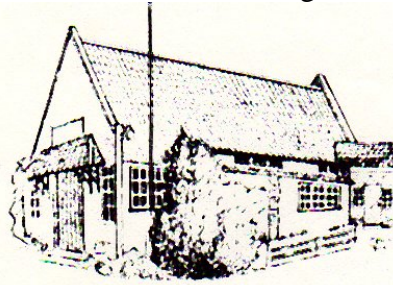
Bishop. The Headington Quarry Morris Men attended and took the instructional sessions. Twenty one students attended for tuition.



Dancing in kit after the feast...

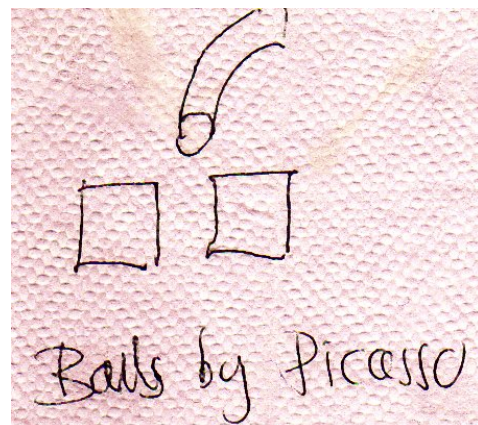


and this time with the lights on!



Dolphin were complimented, *'For leaving the hall in such excellent condition'*

Line drawing of Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall.



Above: *Some of the food and, right, an original Picasso by the Squire of Headington Quarry Men.*

December 6th 1986 and once again the annual nearly Christmas fundraising dancing in Wheelergate was upon the side. Sadly no photographs seem to have survived to tell the tale.

At an NTMC autumn ceilidh the Dolphin Men were once more in action, and Mike took along his rubber chicken for company.



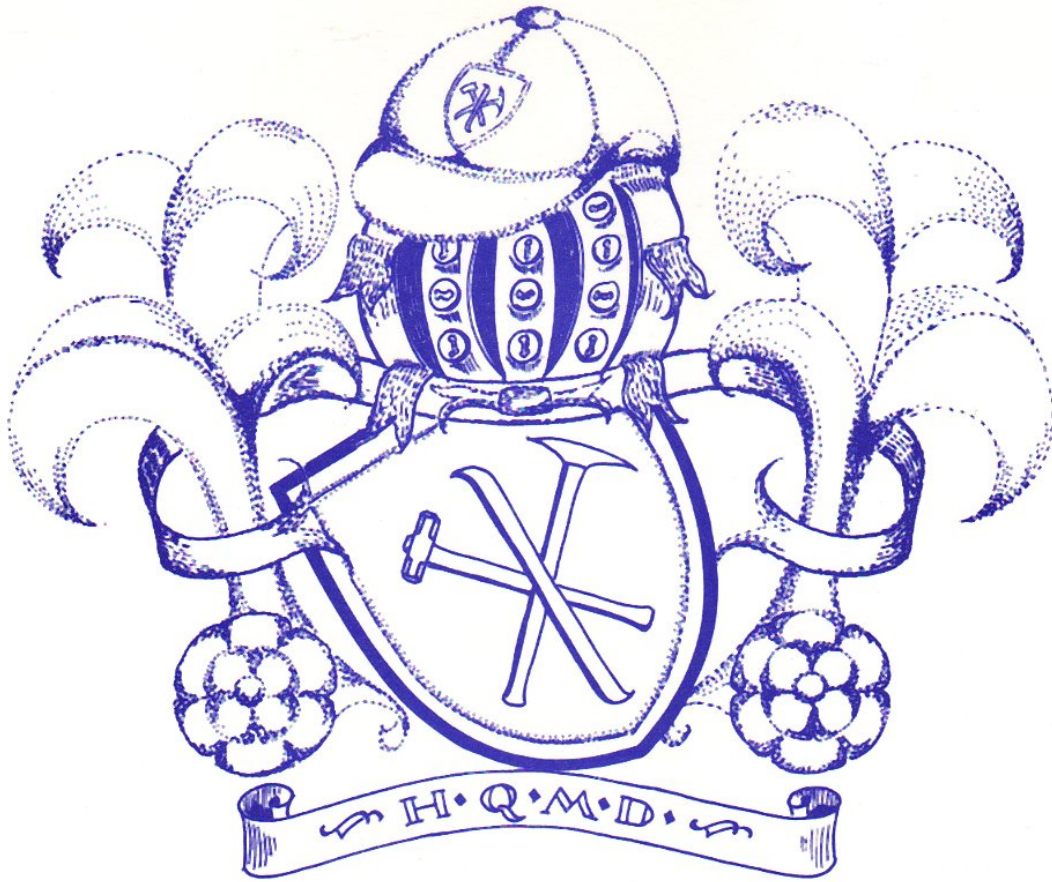
Above and below: Mike was in his tatter coat of many colours



Above: Ian blows life into his bagpipes while Mike blows his chicken!

With no further records or information available 1986 drew to a close. Chris Gigg may have become a member of Dolphin in 1986 but memory being fallible and records being unavailable it merely remains a possibility, and Chris can't remember!

A seasonal Greetings card was received from The Headington Quarry Morris Men as a result of Dolphin hosting the November Morris Ring Instructional at Cropwell Bishop.



CHAPTER TWENTY

1987 – When dolphin only danced one circuit!

On paper another full year, a full Thursday night tour list covering April 30th to July 30th 1987, and a lot of mentions of events in documents within the archive. In spite of this full itinerary there is not much in the way of photographs or documentary items to comment upon.

From 16th -18th January 1987 The Morris Ring held a Jigs instructional. Hosted by Greensleeves Morris Men the weekend centred upon the village of Chipperfield. Three Dolphins went along, Ian Stewart, Mike Wilkinson and Ted Hutchby.

Saturday 25th April 1987 and Dolphin were once more out dancing and collecting funds for the sides coffers. Less than £90 was collected – only half the sum collected in some years.

Saturday May 2nd 1987 and Dolphin performed at the Annual Arnold May procession and dancing day organised by Bendigo Folk Club, as usual all proceeds went to a local charitable cause.

On May 4th 1987, the official May day Bank Holiday Dolphin were at the National Water Sports Centre at the ‘Rollathon and Family Day’. The event in its fourth year was very popular and in 1987 although a ‘rather damp day’; it attracted crowds of 8,000 people.

Radio Trent were there and events were organised at all parts of the centre. But the main event was the Roller Skating races, which were for all ages to enter in appropriate age bands. A couple of short sessions in the arena were called for then a general ‘wander’ around the site, dancing as appropriate.

Sunday 24th May 1987 and Dolphin are dancing a mini-marathon in Nottingham.



NIKE 4040 NIKE

Dolphin's number in the race

Joe Oskiewicz recalls, "Dolphin entered the mini-marathon and danced Processionals the whole way. The route was 2 x 3k circuits of Nottingham centre but Dolphin only did ONE circuit and appeared to come about 50th... People cheered us not realising we had only been round once!"



1987 and the seventh Gate to Southwell made its modern pilgrimage to Southwell Minster from Nottingham Council House on Saturday 30th May.

Dancing teams involved were;

- Dolphin Morris Men
- Foresters Morris Men
- Micklebarrow Morris Men
- Broadstone Morris Men
- Calverton Morris Men
- Aidley's Morris Dancers
- Sergeant Musgrave's Dance
- Greenwood clog
- Leen Valley Morris

The pamphlet this year contained details of the 'Bradmore Morris Dancers of 1618'.

Walkers from the charity, 'Smile Don't Stare' were once again out taking the opportunity to collect with a view to raising funds towards a holiday home for handicapped children.

As in previous years the Home Brewery provided a free drink for each participant at The Bramley Apple pub.

Thaxted was over the weekend of June 6th and 7th 1987 and as usual Dolphin were there, this time on Tour E.



The West Midland Folk Federation organised a regular supply of dancing sides to perform at Warwick Castle from April until August each year. Dolphin were booked for Saturday 18th July 1987, and a letter of thanks on behalf of the WMFF and Warwick Castle was received. Someone took a camera and the following are some of the results;





At the AGM on 17th September 1987 Joe Oskiewicz retained the role of Squire and Simon Haydock replaced Nick as Bagman. Ian Stewart remained the Foreman and Dave Walters continued to play the part of the stick man. Mike was voted in as deputy Squire.

Among other things discussed was the proposed Ring Meeting in 1989. Nick Murphy had relinquished his role as Bagman to concentrate his efforts on coordinating the meeting. Various side members were allocated their jobs in relation to the meeting which covered transport, food, tours, publicity and finance.

Joe, in his Squires report, noted the improvements achieved in the dancing standards of the side. He also noted that from Thaxted onwards the rain was a constant companion; at almost every dance done at Thaxted to *'most of the Thursday night tours, making this one of the wettest Morris seasons I can remember'*. Thaxted did set new standards of decadence when Phil produced Bucks Fizz for breakfast.

Joe remembered that the sun eventually shone in time for the Derbyshire weekend and that, *'the sight of a dehydrated Bagman suffering from alcohol abuse, and Mike doing Nutting girl (or was it Cuckoo's Nest) up a tree does credit to the Morris'*. Joe goes on to say, *'Along with the fun run, Rollathon, Warwick Castle, ceilidh's etc etc – a packed year of Morris events'*.

Joe also records, *'One sad note this year was when we lost Ted due to an ankle injury*

sustained during the Gate [to Southwell], but not to worry we have subsequently found him studying for the Ministry; all the very best for the future Ted. The loss of Ted meant that Mike had to step in and take the part of the fool at short notice, I am sure we are all appreciative of the difficult task Mike has undertaken. Thanks Mike, it's all coming together very nicely'.

[Until this year Mike had been Ted Hutchby's 'apprentice' and occasional 'understudy' but was slowly honing his fooling skills which would allow him to take over the role full time. What Mike couldn't know at that time was that over twenty years later; and with several 'fools and animals' weekends under his belt that he would still be the 'Fule' of Dolphin Morris

Nick Murphy comes in for some praise from Joe, who had found it difficult to devote his full attention because of, 'the wife running off with a travelling salesman'. She probably took the camera with her which probably explains the lack of photographs in the archive.

Nick in his Bagman's report also noted the rain as being a factor and, '*generally appalling*' but notes that collections were down but '*not dramatically so*'. To help Nick out Simon Haydock had taken over the financial side of the Bagman's work and to further relieve the workload Dolphin purchased an ansaphone which was 'absolutely essential' and will make the job for future Bagmen, 'substantially less unpleasant'.

The year ended with the usual fundraising in Lister Gate on 5th December and on 12th December Dolphin performed at the Christmas NTMC ceilidh. The Broad Marsh day for filling the bank account seemed to be coming to a sad demise. '*The bags are much thinner, gone are the days of the £180 for a days 'bottling*'.