

1958

On February 28th we danced an interlude of Morris at the Mayoral Reception at the Guildhall Kingston-Upon-Thames, a very glittering occasion. I danced a jig with John Glaister playing his whistle pipe. I was going to dance the Bledington "Lumps of Plum Pudding" but after the foot up, John broke into the "Ladies Pleasure", so I dance "Lumps of Ladies Pleasure". A really enjoyable evening on a very slippery floor.

22nd March a Morris and Rappee sword day at Cecil Sharp House, we learn something about traditions not adopted by ourselves, such as "Elmington and Badby".

29th March Dennis Salt a dancer was married in which we took part.

3rd May again at Portchester Castle May Queen ceremonies including the Mummers Play "Walk In St. George".

30th May a very enjoyable Barbecue evening on Claygate Common, some of my pals from work came to watch and really

19

enjoyed themselves.

7th June a fine day and time at Windsor (Berks) day of dance, I met a few of the Girl Guides who I used to teach Country Dancing.

We towed in the evening and attended an Exhibition held in Cookham Old Church by Stanley Spencer painter of religious scenes, he also asked us to dance on his lawn.

27th June a Suffolk tour arranged by George Lawrence, our ex-fool. We camped in his garage and lounge. Towed Needham Market, Stowmarket, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Lavenham, Hadleigh. Felias Towe for the Corporation. Sunday morning attended Holy Communion service in Great Blackenham church, exercised in the pub yard opposite. While on this tour we made a special

Journey to KERSEY, because my great grandparents were once Dairy Farmers there. I danced the "Bonnet's so Blue" Bucknell jig. The river Stowe was in flood and stank, so I am now known as Strong Pong Kersey, as Kersey is one of my christian names.

10th July spent an enjoyable evening at Norbiton Church dancing for a collection of U. N. A. members and friends.

12th July an Open Day at The Royal Ballet School in White Lodge Richmond Park. Norman Keam and I danced a jig for the principal and friends, it was "The Putting Girl" Field Town tradition, she was much pleased with our performance.

August some of our dancers who are members of the "Woodcraft Chivalry"

21

performed the movies on the Isle of Arran, and money collected was given to the Bredick Castle restoration fund.

5th September Colchester ring meeting

8th November invited by the district E.T.D.S. executive committee, of which I am a member this year, to perform at the National Gathering Cecil Sharp House. I manage to get hold of a Cows Tail for one fool. Kathleen starts to make me a fools smock, to wear in my old age. We get patterns and information from Dryads of London, and start on a Black Surrey traditional working smock, with a Dorset Woodmans stitchery design, because I follow the woodwork trade.

Boxing two two teams, a little snow but two completed.

Members of the side are now Squire Christopher Penton, Bagman Cyril Smith, assistant bagman Ron Duncombe, John Glaister an ex "Cwifai" dancer Philip Silvester, Norman Heam, Bill Tofts, Peter Daskwood, Dennis Salt, Jim Percy, Christopher Ridley, Jimmy Barclay and brother, Billy Graham, Siward Glaister, Gordon Smith the fiddle player. Eric Foxley from Nottingham University, accordion player. Michael Morton, dancer from New College Oxford, Cyril ? dancer Leeds University.

28th November A.S.M. Newlands College Squire and all Officers re-elected.

John Glaister to be deputy Squire and Squire Elect. Signed by Christopher Penton.

This year 1958 I start to buy this house
2 Hungerford Villas, I clear the basement and
some of our dancers come on Wednesday
evenings for jigs and how to dance practices,
Jordan Smith plays the fiddle. Each

Thursday evening the Woodcraft Folk Club
from Tolworth come with enough fellows to
make a team up, but towards the end of
the year they fade away, and a master
from Bushey Road, Playnes Park, Boys Grammar
school take their place and become a
very good boys side.

Some fellows manage to poke a hole thro'
the ceiling with the sticks, or even dent
it with their heads, these marks are
signed by the individuals concerned.

In the hot summer dancing took place
on our lawn, watched by neighbours.

1959 We dance at a boys school in Twickenham, where John Flaister teaches one evening a week, Fortescue House, and they have some very good teams.

16th March A district event was held in the Coronation Hall Kingston, we seem to have excelled ourselves for this show.

7th March our own Ale in the British Legion Hall, Claygate. Farnborough, East Surrey and Beaux of London City teams were represented. I was pleased to dance with Ron Smedley of Beaux's, "I'll go and Enlist for a Sailor", Sherbourne, Tradition

11th April Two teams attended Cecil Sharp House for a course on the Headington Tradition. William Kimber was present.

May Day celebrations at Porchester Castle, go by coach, and include this year Sleight's Long Sword dance and a Mummies Play, Toward Lane.

9th May Day of dance with the Westminster team, a feast and singing to finish with.

18th May Whit Monday Tour, we took part in Bramley Fair. Martyrs Green, Bookham, Newlands Corner, Alford, Dunsfold, Chiddingfold and by request again at Alford.

3rd May some of the team went to Thatched Ring Meeting.

13th May a Scout Fête at Walton-On-Thames, an important Fête for Kingston Hospital, finished with a tour to Kings Head at Shepperton Middle.

19th June a lovely week end with George Lawrence in Suffolk. Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Sactmundham. Felixstowe. Holy Communion once again at Blakenham church with dancing afterwards. While dancing at Waldeingfield, Mr. & Mrs Douglas Kennedy and Peter arrived. Peter Kennedy played for a few dances, Douglas accepted one bag. On the way home we stopped and danced at St. Albans Cathedral and "The Fighting Cocks".

24th June at my birthplace Ashford Middex. outside "The Royal ^{Hart} Hotel" then in Tudor Hall, including Country dancing.

23rd July an organised event by Grace Meikle in Bishops Park Fulham.

27

August we attend in strong force the
Thing Meeting at Headington Quarry Oxford,
and are lucky enough to have Kenneth Fr. Lovelace
as one of our musicians on the towers.
Cyril Smith was defeated for the post of
Thing Bagman.

October 3rd back on my home ground for

Staines Art Club, we dance inside and
outside of the Town Hall.

17th October attend an Elizabethan evening
in Camberley Surrey.

25th November at the Red House Letherhead
for an international evening seen by
the Rotary Club.

Boosing Day was wet, but dancing went on
as usual. Outside the Hare and Hounds
Squire Christopher Penton danced himself
out with Fieldtown "putting girl" and
John Glaister danced himself in with
Fieldtown, "None so Pretty". Sixteen men

twined out, and dancing visitors were. Laurie Mosley, Mike Morton of Oxford University, Nick Wardle a sword dancer from Malvern. Gordon Ralph who of late has been absent.

a. g. m. 20th November, John Flaister elected Squire, Cyril Smith Hon Duncombe again Bagman, Christopher deputy Squire.

Seward Flaister was our first elected full member, he was presented with his regalia made by Mrs. C. D. Smith. It was resolved to support the Wednesday meetings in my basement with ~~emphasis~~ emphasis on how to dance.

Minutes were signed by John Flaister.

29

1960 29th February we dance for and with boys at Needhams School Croydon.

March 12th attended an instructional meeting at Cecil Sharp House and the newly revived Hitchfield dancing was taught, we had seen a demonstration by the "Men of Mercia" while at the Coventry Spring meeting.

March 18th danced with boys again at Forbeseue House Training school in Teddington Middlesex.

April 2nd an invitation by Headington Quarry Men to attend a Ceilidh, we toured up, danced at the West Wycombe chalk caves

April 23rd our own Ale at the Foley Hall, East Sworey and North Dounomen were our guests.

May 14th an enjoyable time with the Westminster men on their day of dance.

28th May attend the District Festival in Walpole Park Ealing, calling in at the Strawberry Fair, St. Mary's Training College, Strawberry Hill, Middlesex.

June 6th Whit Monday tour, good weather and a successful tour. Beckham, Bookham, Newlands Corner, Stere, Newlands Corner, Wisley, Weybridge, Shepperton.

June 11th Practised week-end, joined East Surrey and Greensleeves men. Once again we meet Douglas Kennedy and Helen, and again hand over the bag.

June 18th While the side danced a Lovely Hall, Guildford. I danced Jigs at our District Childrens Festival in Grey Court School Ham Surrey.

June 26th we towed Somerset, at Bath we were welcomed by some of the Bathampton men. Saturday we danced at West Harptree, Wells, Buxham, Weston - Super - Mare where some Wessac men joined us, Bristol and Bath. Sunday travelling home, Chipping Sodbury, Malmesbury where I danced the blessing dance to a baby, "The Shepherd's Hey" Headington, Fairford, Lechlade, our last drink was at Vantage. as I got into George Lawrence car,

There was a lot of shouting and a fellow ran up, saying "I thought it was old Brookie", it was Cyril Palmer an ex 688 R. C. who I served with for 6 years, was not allowed to chat long, but had a good laugh.

July 2nd only five men turned up at a

Proby Club fête in Letherhead, jigs were danced, we then danced with a full side at Canbury Gardens Kingston-Upon-Thames for our District Festival.

July 16th joined the East Surrey men in Croydon for their District Festival. I met Cleve Mason, who helped to teach me my first steps of movies in Windover Street School, Chertsey, Surrey in 1929.

September 10th East Surrey Men held a ring meeting in Beigate a lovely week-end. On Sunday we were one of eight chosen sides to dance at Lyne House where Lucy Broadwood a folk song collector once lived, her father made pianos and one was used by Chopin. Captain Broadwood was our host. The dancing was watched by the High Sheriff.

October 15th we support a country dance party at Ronayne Hall, Hampton Wick Middlesex, because the Squire of the Ring, Nibs Mathews was M.C. a really grand party.

November 30th Joe Bill Toftes we show the movies at Furzedown Girls Training College, Tooting, with country dancing to finish with, all joining in.

October 7th A.G.M. Newlands College, we approve Ewart Russell of Colchester as our nomination for Ring Bagman.

Christopher Ridley has moved to Cornwall, and Seward Glaister has gone to Bangor University. Ray Wilson of the Bathampton men has joined us. all officers re-elected.

John Glaister signed minutes.

34

1961

January 7th We dance at an outdoor exhibition in Olympia for the Woodcraft Chivalry.

January 14th Squire and Bagmen attend the representatives meeting at Cecil Sharp House. The business was mainly about good presentation of the Morris in public.

John Flaister of Squire marries his daughter off to Peter Jones the East Surrey Squire. Both sides have representative dancers at the wedding feast on March 25th.

April 22nd an instructional course at Cecil Sharp House, which was mainly Russel Warbley presenting the Cecil Sharp unprinted manuscript notes on Sherbourne dancing, particularly the swing high and swing higher movement with the hands.

April 29 - a tour arranged by Peter Dashwood and Hugh Gibson, Chobham, Farnham, Tilford, Godalming, good numbers and fine weather.

May 6 - Rochester May Queen celebrations, Kathleen with Jane Tofts made apple blossom garlands to be used by us to form Queens guard of honour. The Surrey working smock was worn for the very first time by Peter Dashwood. Wet weather cut the celebrations. As I was acting Squire for the day, I was going to be knighted, Sir Hersey.

22 May we keep an invitation from the Headington Quary men to join them on their Whit Monday tour round Headington Quary. We tour up, Bells of Guzley Window, Cookham,

Wallingford. Bill Kimber, the 86 years old dancer and musician played for, and also approved Jim Barclays "Bassa Pipes" jig, taught to him by myself during the basement classes. We finish at a singing and dancing fest.

June 3rd We revive once again the Kingston-Upon-Thames Hock Tide by dancing in the precincts of the Parish Church, collecting £28 towards rehanging the bells. In 1509 the churchwardens gave our ancestors bells for their pads.

June 11th ~~for~~ Christopher Porters garden to entertain his mainly foreign guests.

June 14th after dancing again at Loseley Hall for West Surrey Festival, we visit some of Gordon Smith's friends at

Milkhanger, Thwosley which turns out to be a Barbecue with plenty of Scotch dancing, open air swimming, ^{quels} and it lasted well past midnight.

July 1st an important engagement at the Milk Marketing Board head offices Jiggs Hill Green, Thames Ditton. Hugh Gibson goes with Surrey working smock.

July 1st Thing meeting at Birmingham, town with the "Green Man" men, Eddington, Litchfield, where we danced "Thing O-Bells, and "Sheriffs Ride", traditional dances of Litchfield, and Tamworth, rain spoiled the Sunday dancing.

29th July, Christopher Ridley was married in the "Friends Meeting House" Kings-ton-Upon-Thames to Janet Robson, a local country dancer.

38

August 5th almost all of the team went on a Scottish Tour. I was very sorry it was not possible for me to go. The team were invited to dance for the weekly entertainment given in Princes Gardens Edinburgh. Hugh did some very fine fooling in the survey working smock, he appeared to fill, and make the dancers fill the big arena, Stan a novice supported him finely with the Hobby Horse (King of the May).

Danced in Glencoe and camped near the CLochaig, danced at Ballachulish, rain spoilt most of the events, on the Friday dispersool day, some went to St. Andrews for a course.

November 19th we movissed in Kingston at a Y. M. C. A. international gathering.

Boscing Day Two round Claygate
with two sides, musicians and characters,
weather was bright but very cold.

December 8th A.M. at Torrington road
Claygate home of Ron Duncombe.

John Flaister, C. Penton, N. Heam, P. Sylvester,
W. Tafts, J. Perry, G. Smith, J. Barclay,
H. Gibson, R. Wilson, R. Duncombe, J. Brooks,
Cyril Smith was ill, and Peter Dashwood
was in Newcastle.

Les Nichols of the "Greensleeves Side",
was our nomination for Ring Squire
Cyril Smith and Ron Duncombe re-elected,
with John Flaister as Squire, I was
elected deputy squire and squire elect,
proposed by John Flaister.

Mark Berry, Stafford M.M. Peter Jones,
Richard Warner, Brian Green, were

all elected full members of the side.
It was unanimously agreed we should
purchase scupper swords and really
get down to forming a sword team.
Minutes signed by John Flaister.

1962

41

Practises continue at Newlands College, Christopher Pentons and my own house.

January 13th Squire and Bagman attend a representatives meeting at Cecil Sharp House. Our nominee, Les Nichols of "Greensleeves", was not elected Squire of the Spring. Our full support was given to Lionel Bacon who was, of "Winchester Side".

3rd. February we were guests at the Guildford Morris Mens Ale, at Jacob's Well, Burpham. I meet Angus Mason, one of the pre-1939 Cwifew side.

Norman Heam and I dance for him, "I'll go and Enlist for a sailor", to show that I can still dance it, Angus helped to teach me the dance, he joined in Final Foot Ups.

March 3rd a Barn Dance at "Maria Frey" College Tolworth. Interesting for me as

I worked for two and a half years there, on an extension to the buildings.

May 1st The correct day for us to revive the Kingston, "Hock Tide", dancing and collecting in the precincts of the Church.

May 5th We joined a small "Ping meeting" at Chipperfield, organised by the "Greensleeves" men. Really enjoyable week end, it being a small number. Fun was had with the stocks at Beaconsfield.

May 12th Christopher Pentons and Jim Barclays Surrey tour, weather was cold.

May 26th we help in the celebrations of the dedication of Coventry Cathedral, dancing all day around the Cathedral and lovely shopping precinct. A few of us managed to get inside and have a look round the Cathedral.

June 2nd district festival in St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill Middlesex. I had a good look round a lovely old house, once owned by "Lady Walpole".

June 11th Whit Monday Towe. I went with Jordan and Marjorie Smith, Kathleen and Wendy to Bampton and saw some very fine dancing by that Traditional side. We met up with our own Towing team, in the evening for a show at Brook in Surrey.

June 16th Enjoyed the 3rd Rafted week-end, most of us camped in Father Jacks Putterills orchard.

June 22nd I was unable to go on the Somerset Towe. It was an important one because the side danced for a show at the American museum in Bath, then

on to Claverton Manor, which appears to be a wonderful establishment, also at a very opulent girls school at Boscombe, joined by four Bathampton men.

July 7th we join the "East Swoy" side on their tour of Betchworth, Beare Green, Newdigate, Abinger and Cokley.

July 21st a Thames side tour arranged by Jordan Smith and myself, starting at New Bridge Swoy side, Richmond, Goleworth "London Apprentice pub", Teddington Lock, Hampton Wick, Hampton Court Bridge, Molesey Lock, Weston Green, Thames Ditton, and Laleham Middlesea. Later on in the year, some of us went over, with Jordan Smith to Wembley and saw a very fine cine film of ourselves dancing outside of the "Greyhound".

Weston Green, one feature of it being, a wonderful slow Galley caper by Norman Dean dancing "Dearest Dicky", from "Fieldtown".

August 18th Cyril Smith and Peter Dashwood

learn quite a lot about the reaper sword while on a course at Carmarthen.

We are getting on very well under the instruction of John Slaistoe.

September 1st Show off the Rapier to the public for our first time,

during an evening of dance outside the "Black Swan" Mortyres Green.

September 15th danced at St Pauls school fete in Addlestone Surrey for a number

of our dancers and friends who teach there. Finished the evening at Jordons

Smith's house Popesgrove Strawberry Hill.

Looking at a fine collection of slides of all our activities.

September 16th one Sunday evening we danced for Bill Tofts, his office sports meeting in Sutton Surrey.

September 22nd Seward Glaisters and Peter Jones Tove, at the "Queens Head" Byfleet, the landlord invited us to roll back the carpet and perform.

September 28th a. s. m.

September 29th Christopher Pentons and Peter Dashwoods New Forest Tove. As I am now Squire of the side on my first outing, I had to fool, at the first stop being the "Sir John Barclay" Cadnam, in the evening we returned to be filmed by the B.B.C. but rain spoilt this event.

October 6th a day of dance at St. Albans, Christopher Penton was once Squire of this side. Usual dancing in the Abbey Sumpter yard.

October 20th only one Bagman was able to watch the morris danced in Trafalgar Square London, by the Sheffield men, it was a wonderful sight.

Boosing Day Town of Caygate, followed on one now traditional lines. Good weather, all the pubs visited. Outside of the "Hare and Hounds" about noon, John Glaister danced himself out as Squire with "Fieldtown, Nutting Field", I sang him out with the three lines from 150th Psalm which are inscribed on the new bell in Heated church Essex. The Bell being

collected for by movie's men and friends
I danced myself in with Headington
"Jockey to the Fair." My first dance
to lead the side in was "Flowers of
Edinburgh" Bampton tradition.

Phil Sylvester a lapsed dancer and
musician joined us for our last dance,
"Brighton Camp" from Eynsham.

We danced Propper at each stop and
two sides turned out.

We have danced well this year
and the side is as strong as ever.

All of these notes have been copied
from the Thames Valley Log Book
kept by Cyril Smith, I now continue
them myself.

A. J. M. 28th September 1962 Newlands
College Claygate.

J. Glaister, N. Deam, C. Penton, R. Dunscombe,
P. Dashwood, J. Barclay, H. Gibson,
J. Pevoy, W. Tofts, J. Brooks, C. Smith,
M. Berry, J. Smith, L. Mosley, P. Jones,
R. Wilson. Absent S. Glaister, B. Green,
R. Warner, M. Stanley.

The two Bagman were re-elected, and
I was elected Squire, John Glaister
and Christopher Penton deputy Squires.

Laurie Mosley, and Mervyn Stanley
were elected full members.

It was passed we should all take a
twin at Fooling and collecting during
the coming year.

Minutes signed by G. J. Pevoy Brooks