

Dr Turberville's Morris

Scrapbook

2009

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Dates after this are included in the 2010 Scrapbopok

Meet the Team

Gemma Hughes
Angie Johnson
Sophie Upham
Jo and Neil Cooper
Len and Barbara Lewellyn-Sheppard



Tony Warren
Alan Curtis
Grahame Upham



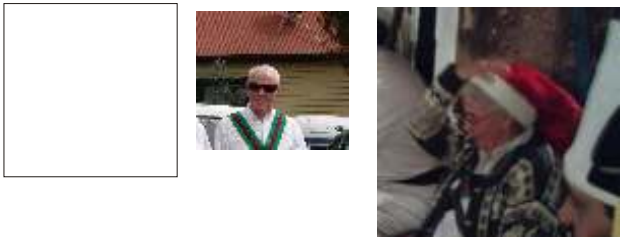
Andrew Knight [Foreman]
Bryan and Jan Aldridge



Dave Easeman
Fiona Easeman
Heather Curtis



Roger Conway
Ken Coles
Janet Whitteridge



Meg Crothers
Paul Atkinson
Alison Bottiglia



Morris dancing facing extinction

Morris dancing could be "extinct" within 20 years because young people are too embarrassed to take part, a UK Morris association said today.

Last Updated: 9:39AM GMT 05 Jan 2009



The average age of Morris dancing sides is getting older and older Photo: PA

The numbers of people participating in the traditional British folk dance are dwindling whilst the age of the dancers is increasing, according to the Morris Ring, an association representing over 200 Morris troupes across Britain.

It is warning that "unless younger blood is recruited during the coming winter months, Morris dancing will soon become extinct".

Charlie Corcoran, Bagman of the Morris Ring, said: "There's a distinct possibility that in 20 years' time there will be nobody left.

"It worries me a great deal. Young people are just too embarrassed to take part.

"This is a serious situation. The average age of Morris dancing sides is getting older and older. Once we've lost this part of our culture it will be almost impossible to revive it."

The Morris Ring is hoping a winter recruitment drive could attract some new younger members in time for the spring when most troupes perform the dances they have been practising.

Paul Reece, chairman of the Advisory Council of the Morris Ring, said: "There is still time for new blood to get ready for the Spring fertility offensive.

"Such customs and activities were once a common sight around the country. Today they are carried out by an ever-dwindling stalwart band of enthusiasts who are determined to keep them alive.

"But there is a serious danger that, in less than a few decades, Morris dancing will be confined to the history books."

And

Embarrassment threatens future of Morris dancing

Dancing is war by other means.

Last Updated: 8:42PM GMT 05 Jan 2009

Comments [20](#) | [Comment on this article](#)

In 1910 bitter hostilities raged in the letters columns of *The Morning Post* (later incorporated into *The Daily Telegraph*) on the subject of Morris dancing. On one side was Cecil Sharp, the collector of song and dance; on the other Mary Neal, a social worker who sought dances for her Espérance Girls' Club. To tell the truth, neither yet had the means to establish authenticity among English traditional dances.

Sharp won the war, but today an association of Morris dancers predicts their extinction because young people are embarrassed to take part. Blame the bells or hankies or beards or real-ale bellies. A stouter tradition of dance the Nutters of Bacup, the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, the Padstow Hobby Horse deserves its fierce local support.

Morris dancing film becomes cult hit

A film about Morris dancing, described as "The Full Monty with bells on", has become a cult hit after struggling to secure a release in cinemas.

By Jon Swaine

Last Updated: 2:48PM GMT 05 Feb 2009

Morris: A Life With Bells On, a documentary-style comedy following the fortunes of a group of dancers, has generated intense excitement on the internet and on a regional tour of town and village halls in the south west, where it is set. It stars high-profile British actors including Derek Jacobi, Naomie Harris, Greg Wise and Harriet Walter. Its makers believe it could become a British 'sleepers hit' in the tradition of The Full Monty or Billy Elliot. Yet with big studios more reluctant to take financial risks during the recession, it has failed to obtain a widespread distribution deal.

However, its website is attracting 100,000 visits every week and the producers are having to employ assistants to deal with a "deluge" of emails from Morris fans demanding to know where they can watch it. A petition drawn up demanding a mainstream release has attracted 3,000 signatures.

The film, which was directed by Lucy Akhurst, centres on Derecq Twist, the leader of Millsham Morris, who attempts to pioneer a new form of Morris dancing called Extreme Morris. His modernising ambitions ruffle feathers among more traditional Morris men.

Akhurst said: "The film's England is an idyllic one, with rolling green hills and thatched cottages cast in the warm glow of perpetual summer. There is no violence, no sex, no nudity. The characters are good, decent people."

Chaz Oldham, who wrote, produced and appeared in the picture, admitted that its quirky subject matter may have deterred nervous studio executives from taking a gamble.

He said: "The problem we face is that when we've shown the film to the 'big boys', they've said 'we love it but there's no audience for it. It's just too niche.'"

"We disagree. It's The Full Monty with bells on a nice film about good people that celebrates the best things about England. It gets huge smiles out of every audience.

"We're proving the studios wrong. It's just gone nuts we haven't spent a penny on advertising yet we have thousands of people demanding it be shown."

Phil Walkley, of Movieola Village Filmshows, which organised the regional tour, said he was confident the film would break through. "Every year we have a film that gets the public imagination," Mr Walkley said. "Two years ago it was The Queen, last year it was Atonement ... And it looks as though this little movie, that doesn't even have a distributor yet, is going to do it."

After watching the film Dick Williams, of Bourne Valley Morris Men in Wiltshire, said: "If there's any young lads out there watching it, they'll see the way to become a superstar go and join a Morris. It was wonderful, a thoroughly good evening's entertainment."

For more information on Morris: A Life With Bells On, visit www.morrismovie.com

Practices at Merriott Tithe Barn



Ken visited Tasmania and danced with the Jolley Hatters



21 April

ASHILL INN WITH TAUNTON DEANE MORRIS



23 Apr

ST GEORGES DAY BELL INN ASH



Wyvern Jubilee



Babylon



Moonshine Appalacian



West Somerset



Treacle Eater Clog

28 Apr

PRINCE OF WALES HAM HILL

5 May	FOX AND HOUNDS CHARLTON ADAM
9 May	NEWLANDS CAMP. CHARMOUTH F/B TWINNING YEOVIL
12 May	LORD POULETT HINTON

Hello world!

May 21st, 2009 by Alan

Welcome to WordPress. This is your first post. Edit or delete it, then start blogging!

May 22nd, 2009 by Alan

It isn't possible for the blog to send any emails, so for example no message is sent to the administrator when a new post is made. This means that all messages that require moderation (approval) before appearing on the site have to wait until the administrator thinks of logging in to check things...

It also means that automatic registration of new subscribers (if I've got the terms right?) won't work - they need to receive an emailed password! I shall have to see whether there's a manual way around this.

But... I see that Lynda has been able to post a second comment, after her first one was approved, so maybe things will work all right!

Next question is how to allow users to make new postings (rather than simply comments on existing postings). I think this is the same as setting up a group blog, with a number of authors. Ah well, no doubt I can learn...

But it does raise (again) the small matter of whether we'd be better off paying for a domain of our own, and maybe paying for hosting.

Incidentally, I'm starting to try to customise the blog pages to look more like the current style of the website. In order to do that more easily, they recommend that one sets up a server on the PC for testing purposes. Well, I did that (using the free package XAMPP which includes Apache, MySQL, PHP and Perl) and when I started the server up - my PC slowed to a crawl. So a piece of advice - don't try it on an old PC with a 600MHz PIII processor, especially if you have Facebook running at the same time!

19 May ROSE AND CROWN BOWER HINTON



26 May LORD NELSON NORTON WITH SWEET COPPIN

26th May - The Lord Nelson, May 27th, 2009 by Alan

Well, a bit tricky for me to comment on this one. I can mention the fact that (according to our programme) Sweet Coppin, a women's North West morris side from Taunton, were due to be joining us; and that the dancing was due to kick off (if that's not an

inappropriate expression) at 8pm. I can also mention that Angie wasn't certain of the directions for getting to Norton sub Hamdon. But apart from that I'm in the dark, having been confined to the house with a cold. My reporter / informant, Heather, was also not present at the dancing, having stayed home - not to nurse me, you understand, but to revise / prepare for a job interview in the morning.

Would anyone care to (or dare to) add a comment and enlighten me, and the rest of the known universe, on how the evening went? Was there any repeat of the occasion, a few years ago now, when Andrew, with the aid of some ham acting and a blood capsule or two, fooled Sweet Coppin into believing that someone had been seriously hurt, to the extent that bandages and water were fetched?

The evening weather looked pretty good from where I was, so can I assume that a good evening was had by all?

Tony's 50th Birthday Party, Compton Dundon



23rd May - Tony's Party

May 24th, 2009 by Alan

A great time was had by all.

30 May MERRIOT CHURCH FETE

30th May - Merriott Church Fete; June 1st, 2009 by Alan

I don't like to be boring (it just happens that way) but I'm going to say it again - what a good afternoon that was! Generally speaking I have a bit of a prejudice against dancing at fetes, but that was just brilliant! I don't know whether the freely-offered scones with strawberry jam (sorry, Dave) and clotted cream were the almost-literal icing on the cake, or was it the carefully-poured-by-the-lady-vicar's-own-hand cups of tea? But put that together with the appreciative audience, the collection (topped off with a donation), and the friendly comments about how much we'd be appreciated at the Kings Head (under new ownership) and at Pery's Cider and it couldn't really be bettered. Whatever the cause of my enjoyment (and I don't *think* it was influenced by the beer that I brought, Neil brought and Andrew brought to what would otherwise have been a "dry" event), it overcame my background fears of dancing on grass, on a rough and sloping field, in a large space too far away from the people, while the



audience were busy attending to the goodies offered on the various stalls instead of the dancing. Bring on next year's fete says !!

Alan says:

1 June 2009 at 10:46 pm

oh, I almost forgot to mention the burgers...



2 Jun

WEST PENNARD THE LION

2nd June - The Lion, West Pennard

June 3rd, 2009 by Alan

This was an interesting evening, I can't remember the last time we danced outside a pub with such a large audience. Obviously the location is ideal, The Lion having a large area immediately in front of the entrance with picnic tables and plants, then a reasonably-sized parking area before the road. With a portion of the parking cordoned off to dance in, the audience still had plenty of space to spread out, chat, drink and smoke - and if they felt so inclined, to watch!

Deb (the landlady) told me afterwards that the pub - which was unusually busy for a Tuesday - emptied, completely, when we started dancing. Even the regulars who had expressed no interest whatsoever in Morris dancing went out to watch. Of course they didn't all stay outside for the whole 75 minutes or so that we performed - after all many of them had tables booked and meals waiting - but there was a substantial audience throughout, and one large party from the Pilton Festival site which had booked the restaurant changed their minds and ate outside.

The quality of the introductions and linking pieces between dances was, I fear, below par - I just did not feel inspired to talk, but of course I forced myself, so apologies if I was boring or intrusive or in any other way spoiled anyone's enjoyment! Of course I also managed to (perhaps) spoil some people's enjoyment by going around with the collecting pot - I'm sure the foreign coins and peanuts that we found in the collection must have been put in by accident.

On the other hand, the evening's dancing was remarkable for its consistency, and especially noteworthy was the demonstration of Lakeland Stepping by Grahame - thrown in at the deep end with no warning or preparation, certainly no chance to explain to the musicians what was wanted, yet he produced a splendid display. Thank you Grahame, and I hope we can persuade you to put down the squeeze box and put on your clogs again soon.

Happy Birthdays were said and sung for members of the audience: Claire, Angela and one other whose name has escaped me.

To Neil and Jo, who had to rush off to get to the camp site before the barrier closed, I hope you had a good night under your new awning. To Jan, I hope your painful joints eased, it was obviously agonising. To Gemma, good luck for your stint on the exercise bike for charity on Thursday - I hope someone comes to give you a break from time to time, otherwise 9:00 - 6:00 is going to be an awfully long time to spend cycling in the middle of Tesco's!

Tags: West Pennard

Posted in Dance Outs, Team Nights | Comments Off

6 Jun

WESSEX FF WEYMOUTH

7th June - Wessex Folk Festival

June 15th, 2009 by Alan

This blog has been re-written on 15th June owing to a server problem. Picture below inserted 20 July.

Dr Ts at the Wessex Folk Festival

Folk festivals come, and occasionally go, and have their ups and downs in between, and the Weymouth Folk festival has certainly seen some of those. When the festival began with a loud fanfare and lots of enthusiasm, heavily supported by the local council and promoted as a major

event in the tourist calendar, I looked forward to something new, and bright, and exciting. The council backing resulted in some notably good elements such as free parking for dancers, an excellent venue in the Pavilion with room for big-name acts as well as local acts in smaller settings. Nevertheless the first couple of years still showed a few problems, and for me as a dancer the biggest downside was the choice of dance spot locations. For a festival held in early May, the promenade was a cold, windswept spot (although lovely sunshine could and did sometimes appear, and with it the crowds), and in the other locations in the shopping centre we seemed to be in the way of the shoppers, rather than being an additional reason for them to be there. Later on the enthusiasm of the council seemed to wane and with it the generosity of provision for dancers declined, and I found myself less keen to attend - a shame since I like to be able to support events in my local area.

But now times have changed. I'm not sure exactly when it happened but the council withdrew and the festival has transformed into the volunteer - led Wessex festival. In its new, smaller - scale format it has found a new base - since 2006 it has been based in Hope Square, on the southern side of the harbour - and a new vitality to go with it.

This year's festival suffered from a bad weather forecast, but I guess you could say the forecast was bad, because on the whole the weather was OK. Saturday evening's outdoor stage events had to be moved under cover, but they were ready for that so no harm done. And Sunday had some glorious sunny spells, especially at the end of the afternoon. Dr Turberville's had a great time, dancing to good audiences and catching up on with old friends, and even the ice-cream was a bargain. The only downside was that (after having taken out the necessary time spent in the pub refuelling) there just wasn't time to see everything and everyone that I wanted to! And it was a shame that we didn't catch up with Hobos. Ah well, I'll just have to make sure I don't miss the festival next year.

Great event, thanks to some hard-working organisers and a few noble sponsors. My thanks to all of them.

If you're interested in festivals, visit the blog at <http://www.folkmusicfestivalsandsessions.com>

- and for more blogs about the Wessex Folk Festival, visit <http://www.wessexfolkfestival.com/>



9 Jun CASTLEBROOK INN
COMPTON DUNDON

Tony's Cat

June 13th, 2009 by Drew

Late on Wednesday evening we heard of the sudden death of Tony's cat Tigger. In honour of Tigger the next dance out used Black Hankies as a mark of respect.

Alan says: 14 June 2009 at 8:43 am

Tigger was a bit of a character. Aged 11 and a half, his death was unexpected, and our commiserations to Carol, Tony and Ruttinkins.

13 Jun

MONTACUTE HOUSE/FETE



Alan says:

14 June 2009 at 8:24 am

The first pictures are on Facebook. See <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=98729&id=504626262&ref=nf>

I don't know whether pictures on Facebook stay there for ever, or get removed after a while, so it may be worth getting copies uploaded into the Turbs Photograph Album as well.

On the subject of photographs, really sincere thanks to Sophie who has coming out with us from time to time this season and taking lots of pictures - and her photographs are really good! The Wessex Folk Festival pictures at <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=98729&id=504626262&ref=nf#/album.php?aid=98534&id=504626262>

are fantastic!

Alan says:

14 June 2009 at 8:40 am

Back to the fete... mustn't forget that Ken was also not able to come, owing to sickness. Hope you're getting better, Ken.

The dancing wasn't bad - certainly enjoyable. I usually dislike dancing on grass unless it is a perfectly manicured lawn, but the ground wasn't too bad - I think it was quite well compacted and of course it was dry, although in our very first dance there was a brief moment when I felt my feet slip. It was nice to have such a good band of musicians but sadly the music wasn't loud enough to be heard by the audience at the other end of the set - I think the bouncy castle's generator / compressor might have had something to do with it.

Oh, and for the record, I didn't have a scone with jam and cream! I must be seriously slipping!

The fete had all sorts of stalls where you could do something (catch the rat, ball in a bucket, etc.) and unusually few stalls for shopping - which on this occasion was a problem for me since I wanted to buy a nice hand-made card for Heather to mark our 29th anniversary, which is today. One thing they did have was about 200 soft toys, and I think they sold about 175 of them (including the penguin) before we had a look. They were so keen to dispose of the remainder that they chased after Neil and me all the way to the tea tent, to thrust hippos (allegedly) into our hands. So now Dr Turberville's has a collection of hippos as well as penguins. Anyone want to design a new badge?

Drew says: 14 June 2009 at 10:14 pm

Alan and heather are really good at not disclosing their important dates until after the date. Cake on Tuesday!!

Alan says: 15 June 2009 at 7:26 pm - I seem to have been able to insert a picture. Woop!

Alan says: 17 June 2009 at 7:39 pm - What date would that be, and how did you find out?

16 Jun

THE QUARRY INN KEINTON MANDEVILLE

Oh no! Andrew!

June 18th, 2009 by Alan

Disaster! Andrew (Squire, Foreman and Fool) has kn*****d his kn*e! I don't know what he gets up to in the shower but he claims that's where he did it... Cleverly, he created a cover story by claiming to have some twinges the day before at The Quarry, but we know that's not the real cause of his injury.

So now Andrew has to grit his teeth for the pain, and we have to put up with him sitting on the sidelines and watching (and criticising our lines, no doubt) while we dance the weekend through at Teignmouth - and probably for the next 6 weeks as well.

Here's hoping you get some relief soon, Andrew.

20 Jun

TEIGNMOUTH FF

20th-21st June - Teignmouth Folk Festival (Part 1)

July 7th, 2009 by Alan

Personally I have a special soft spot for the Teignmouth Folk Festival. I don't know what it is - perhaps the pleasant "small town" feel of Teignmouth reminds me of my schooldays (in Wells). Or the sea air. Or just the usual factors - good pubs, good beer. Or perhaps the memories - these include camping on the (beautifully flat) school field and playing rounders and cricket, then watching a splendid sunset across the bay, with a beer in my hand and in the delightful company of the Aldridges and the Newtons. The Newtons in particular, since when they camped they brought a whole family full of gorgeous young ladies - Wendy, Adina, Sarah and Catherine. The walk back up the hill - which felt more of a mountain by the time a full day of dancing had been completed - was always worth the effort! Another year we camped in the Rugby Club field, which had the distinct advantage of being a level walk from the town, albeit through the back end of some rather strange factory yards. This camp site had the added attraction of long grass, "interesting" toilet facilities and regular passing trains. This was the year that the festival suffered from some torrential downpours, although (as usual) they only struck when we'd finished our dancing, and we enjoyed squeezing into the pub and sitting down for a bite to eat and a music session, soaking the seats in the process. Later on we were forced to shelter - 5 of us I think it was, or perhaps 15 - in the telephone box while another shower lashed down. Then there was the year that the helicopter - I forget whether it was air/sea rescue, or air ambulance - landed on the beach lawns to discharge a casualty into a waiting ambulance. Ah, memories, memories.

Whatever the reason, I was determined that this was a festival I would go to, and preferably camp. In the event I secured a space in Len and Barbara's new tent. Interestingly (?) it was a space that I had occupied before, when the tent belonged to Neil and Jo! I did offer the remaining spaces to carefully selected ladies but they all refused, for some reason, claiming that it wasn't my place to offer space in Len and Barbara's tent, so in the event it was just the three of us. Neil and Jo were also in our "away team" but owing to their replacement tent having wheels and an electric heater they were forced to set up in a different field, so we weren't able to draw our wagons in a circle and set up an impregnable fortress. Never mind, we didn't need the protection in our field - but I was a little apprehensive for Neil and Jo's safety when I saw that they were surrounded by a motley collection of itinerant traders, drive tarmackers and associated types, many of whom had come in their caravans complete with outside chicken runs containing what can only be described as cocks!

Saturday morning we met up at the East Cliffe Cafe and started wondering how we'd manage in the procession without any music and - more importantly - without bag carriers. The first problem was solved by simply taking up our appointed place in the procession - being next to Knockhundred Shuttle, naturally we had an over-supply of music (such that we'd have been unable to hear Dave's fiddle, had he been there), and it turned out that their tunes were all readily suitable for a simple single-stepping dance. Accordingly we immediately launched into an amended version of Jenny Lind, which must have caused a little difficulty for the newer members of the side who've never danced a processional and haven't been taught one. The second difficulty was "solved" by wearing our rucksacks on our backs, and giving the stick trolley to Gemma since she's young and fit and bound to be able to dance while encumbered, and I can state with some certainty that it is not at all easy to get one's feet off the ground when one is wearing a rucksack with a day's supply of cold drinks (both soft drinks and beer) for two. It is made even harder when one is handed the Scottish flag and asked to wave it while dancing. This might be the point at which I should apologise to Heather, and to Jo, and to Neil, for hitting them about the head and body with said flag and flagpole. Sorry guys, next time I'll make sure it's a Somerset flag.

Half way around the procession, we reached Torquay (or so it seemed) and reinforcements - including a very welcome Bryan and grandson James, who took turns pulling the stick trolley.

I could go on, but have to take a work break, so Part 2 will follow as and when.

25th June - Website changes

June 25th, 2009 by Alan

A new main page has been uploaded (you'll struggle to spot the differences though) which has a button on the top menu bar to go to this blog. But if you're reading this, you already know how to get to the blog! The same new header (script-loaded) will now be used for all other pages, when I get around to removing the hard-coded headers from them. Until then, the route back to the blog from any other page will be via the "Home" page. OK?

20 Jun

TEIGNMOUTH FF - cont



Knockhundred Shuttle



Beltane



The Widders



Cogs and Wheels



Lodestone



Sweet Copin



Sidmouth Steppers



Heather and Gorse



23 Jun

WYNDHAM ARMS KINGSBURY EPIS.



30 Jun

THE ELMS STREET



4 Jul

BARRINGTON VILLAGE FETE

7 Jul

ELI'S THE ROSE AND CROWN HUISH EPISCOPI

7th July - Eli's

July 8th, 2009 by Alan

Dancing at Eli's for the first time since their disastrous floods. Wonderful to see how little the pub has changed - all replacements have been made sensitively, and the new wood looks very nice.

The big surprise was that the "small" car park beside the pub has been levelled and resurfaced! Wow! What a superb dancing surface and space it makes.

Given the number of people who'd turned out (despite the torrential rain earlier, and a cold wind) to wait for us and watch us, I was a bit embarrassed about the shortage of dancers - with 3 injured, 2 working and 2 celebrating their wedding anniversary (What? When they could have been morris dancing, you ask? I know, some folk are strange!) we all had to work hard, but we were helped out by Meg who gamely danced despite her lack of experience, and various members of the huge band who danced as well - well done and thanks Dave, Angie and Grahame!

The weather turned out nice - a beautiful evening, and we had a great time and the audience gave us some great feedback. Roll on our next visit.

11 Jul

WEST PENNARD PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE

11th July - West Pennard Primary School Fete

July 11th, 2009 by Alan

Well done Angie and Grahame! So good to have you dancing with us at the fete this afternoon. Definitely need to find some opportunites to teach you some dances now!

The children's country dancing was good to see, maybe when they get older they won't be afraid to try Morris.

But the*real* highlight (for me) had to be "Hoop-Cha", or Charlotte, Queen of the Hula Hoop! We (the men, at any rate) have decided that we definitely need some of that in the side. Anyone know where we can get some?

The only downside to this afternoon was that I didn't get any more cake or another cream tea, even though it was actually offered (I think I was distracted), and of course didn't get to the air day. But it was fun anyway, and Andrew's knee seemed to hold up (but he may tell us differently tomorrow...), and I think the school/parents/helpers enjoyed our peformances.

14 Jul HALFWAY HOUSE CHILTHORNE DOMER

14th July - The Halfway House, Chilthorne Domer - July 15th, 2009 by Alan
Still not sure what to say about last night!
Ideas, anyone?
The best bit was sitting in the sofas, having a beer and chatting. Nuff said?
Heather Curtis says: 15 July 2009 at 10:29 pm
I agree with the nuff said bit, the less said about the dancing the better!

16 Jul SOMERTON INVASION



16th July Somerton Morris Fringe
July 19th, 2009 by Drew
Posted by Andrew.

Wow!

Brilliant night! It rained all evening so the
8 teams that came to the fringe had to

dance in the skittle alley of the Unicorn, all packed in and showing some
of the finest dancing in the south west of the UK.

The afternoon workshops were well attended but not so over subscribed that individual attention could not be given to those that came. From no experience to dancing 3 dances in 2 hours! well done all who took part.

Dr Turberville's hosted the evening and were joined by Wyvern Jubilee, Chalice, Priston Jubilee, Frome Valley, Sweet Coppin, No Mean Feet and Treacle Eater. Each showcased their style and dancing and due to the close proximity the quality improved all evening - some of the dances were the best yet seen - well done all!

Music in the bar and the alley afterward with 2 alternate sessions taking place with singing, story telling and music led by the musicians from the attending teams.

Fun and entertainment for all, with over 30 events!

SOMERTON JULY 10th-18th

SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL 2009

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 KATTS GILBERT GORDON HERRICK HARRY BROWN
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SOMERTON SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL
 PRESENTS

MORRIS DANCING WORKSHOP

UNICORN HOTEL SKITTLE ALLEY

THURSDAY 16TH JULY at 2.00pm

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Put the date in your diary for next year.

gem says:

30 July 2009 at 9:21 pm

Hey All

I must say what a great evening the Somerton Fringe was. Considering the weather was bad and not on our side. Most of the teams showed up and looked as though they enjoyed it considering we were in a smaller skittle ally we did some good dancing. Bring On next year

18 Jul SWEET COPPIN TAUNTON ALL DAY

21 Jul THE LION WEST PENNARD 20:00

21st July - The Lion

July 22nd, 2009 by Alan

Yes, we were baack at the Lion for our second "formal" visit of the season (plus one "informal" viit when we met there, taught Angie a couple of dances, then went on to the school fete so Angie could perform in public like a professional!).

The weather had been awful (rain) all day so we weren't expecting any audience, even if it dried up enough to dance - but we were wrong! The pub was well filled with diners who wanted to see us, and as soon as we began we gathered a good crowd, who didn't seem to mind standing outside (the seats were too wet to use) for an hour.

Faced by such an audience we simply had to put on a good show, and I think we did it, all the aches and pains from all that dancing last week were forgotten and we even managed to defeat a few of the bogies (an Old Mill where the invisible man didn't stuff it up!).

No more breakages of stick or swords, but Gemma managed to get one in the eye - should be a good black eye by now.

After dancing, we went in for a bag and then a few tunes - it was nice to have quite a varied session, and especially nice to be joined by Celia with her violin. Great playing Celia, thanks! One of the young people out for an evening at the pub was taking notes while Tony played one or two tunes from the 1960's, and on a hunch I invited him to give us a tune, and he played a stonking good Neil Young number! And we had what I think was officially the first public performance of a Gemma Gig?

We were enjoying ourselves so much that we didn't leave until after 12. When shall we go back?

Hats!

July 23rd, 2009 by Alan

Does anyone care about hats? I do - but then again sometimes I don't. For many years the "official" position in Dr Turberville's - that is to say, what was agreed if we discussed it at the AGM - was that we didn't really have hats, but if anyone wanted to wear one, they could. Dave occasionally wore a hat to keep off the sun (usually looking quite smart, of course), and I sometimes wore a sunhat for the same reason (usually looking ridiculous, of course), and Nick had a bowler but didn't wear it, but that was about it on the hat front.

Then something happened. I think it was the advent of Droo and Neil, both coming from a bowler-wearing previous side, they brought decorated (i.e. beribboned) bowlers with them and we thought they looked very nice, too. When Barb and Len joined they wanted to have hats too (I dunno why) and soon there were hats coming out of our ears (if you see what I mean). And all without really being decided on, or anything like that, it just grew on us.

I had a bowler which never really seemed the right size, but I patched it up and wore it - but I was never really happy with it. For one thing, it always seemed too hot on a sunny day. I tried wearing one of my top hats, but the "good" one just wasn't right (too grey, too large) and the one that seemed to work best was just too fragile, and couldn't take the punishment. So I kept looking for a replacement, almost anything - panama, bowler, topper, pith helmet - in the charity shops and cheap shops. Of course nothing my size ever came up.

And then I spotted a cheap bowler in the joke shop, and they had a range of sizes, and I thought everything was perfect!

But somehow, now that the initial glow of satisfaction has worn off, and the hat has been squashed out of shape at least 4 times, and acquired some impressive dents (but it always seems to go back to shape somehow), I feel that it doesn't look right after all. Somehow, in a hat I always manage to look silly. But by now, if I go hatless I'll be almost the only one!

So what is the solution?

I have been reading about the strange developments in the headgear afflicting Tyne Bridge Morris from Newcastle, on the blog at Tyne Bridge Morris Bagman's Blog , where they've been through them all - bowlers, panamas, straw hats and now eventually ended up in bandanas! It hardly seems traditional for a North West (clog) side, but who am I to say so?

Now that we have several new members, and before they feel obliged to rush out and buy bowlers to blend in with the rest of us, does anyone have an opinion on hats? All I say is please, please don't suggest bandanas!

Links: Tyne Bridge Morris

25 Jul	BURLISCOMBE WELLINGTON
26 Jul	ROSE AND CROWN BOWER HINTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
27 Jul	WITH SWEET COPPIN SOUTH PETHERTON
28 Jul	CROWN AND VICTORIA TINTINHULL

Busy, busy, busy - 25th to 28th July

July 29th, 2009 by Alan

We've all tried, but failed to recall a period when we've been so busy, with dancing engagements every day for four days. On reflection it's amazing that we managed to make it all the way through, given that we have other commitments (jobs, family etc.) and the potential for injury.

Speaking for myself, I need to learn from this, and make sure I warm up before dancing at the "big" events (which are the ones where I tend to try extra hard, leap extra high etc.). It was annoying to strain my calf on Saturday, with the eventual result that I was more or less incapacitated on the final dance out of the run, on Tuesday evening.

Luckily, and thanks especially to our newer members, we had enough dancers and musicians to keep going throughout, and last night was a really impressive turn-out. If only there'd been some sunshine, and an audience to be duly impressed!

Now that we have more members than we have had for quite a number of years, we may need to discuss the question of how often we dance out. I'm sure it'll be raised at the AGM so it's worth giving it some thought in advance.

There will be some unexpected consequences of our higher numbers, and contradictory pressures - which we weren't really used to, having become accustomed to having a somewhat smaller side.

One consequence has already become apparent - we were in the habit of deciding on booking requests more or less simply by seeing whether we were available. If more than (say) two people

couldn't make the date, we'd decline it since that meant we were almost certain to be unable to find a full side. Nowadays, unless there's no musician or at least 6 people say they're not available, we have no reason to decline the booking and so it stays in the calendar.

The result is that we end up dancing at many more events than we really intended. So this year we've done more than last year, and last year (when we made a special effort because it was our Silver Jubilee) we did more than the year before, and so on. This might cause some problems, especially for the members of the side who instinctively feel that they "have to" support every event (or simply can't bear to miss any!).

A second possible consequence is that some people might find they've been turning out to dance and then standing around, not doing much dancing after all. This can be a good thing, so that (for example) Jan can join us but not feel that she has to do too much dancing, but equally it might be a bad thing - I know that I'd rather do lots and lots of dancing (so long as I'm fit!), and I think the same is true of some others, and if I was forced to sit out many dances I'd feel frustrated - just as I did when I was only a musician in a women's side!

So, some matters for discussion at the AGM.

Meanwhile, a very enjoyable four days - it was a bit like being on holiday together, with a new adventure every day! It has been a particularly varied time, with a mass teach - in on Saturday (complete with fancy dress and funny wigs); a rather damp pub session with an audience of about 4, but chips and sandwiches to follow; a "perfect" summer evening with Sweet Coppin, with a generous audience and a good performance, but no pressure (although it was odd, not being outside the pub and therefore having little beer to sustain us), and followed by a very pleasant chat in the beer garden; and then an evening pub session, on a chilly, sunless, audience - free evening, with the inevitable change in performance standards!

Actually some would say we danced badly last night, but I thought it was actually very entertaining. I wouldn't want to put that before a proper audience but it was perfectly good for our own amusement.

And then - what can one say, except to echo Barb's comment: "karaoke morris - I don't think so!"

I now have a few days to let my leg recover, then hopefully a busy week on holiday with lots of walking. I plan to be fully fit for the visit to Over Stratton.

4 Aug	SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL
11 Aug	ROYAL OAK OVER STRATTON

4th Aug - Practice (not Sidmouth!)

August 11th, 2009 by Alan

OK, I've given in and decided to write a few brief notes, before we've all forgotten all about it. Not that it is an evening that anyone needs to forget; it was an excellent practice in all respects.

What happened was that the weather - knowing that I was supposed to be on holiday - decided to play up and it poured with rain all day, so much so that there was clearly no chance of dancing at Sidmouth. The general consensus was that it is a long way to go, to drive all the way to Sidmouth and sit in a pub (pleasant though that can be) when we could sit in a pub nearer to hand. Added to the likelihood that we wouldn't be able to get into a pub for all the festival - goers and locals crammed in (that's what it's usually like anyway), and the decision was made.

So, instead, we had a practice night. And tried out the Unicorn skittle alley, which proved to be quite acceptable for our purposes.

It was a very good practice, too - we covered a lot of ground and maybe set the scene for some of the work we need to do in the Winter?

Hinton stepping practice - so now there's a chance that we might even look as though we're all doing the same dance? Hinton dances - I recall we went through Lads and DUTG*, which caused some confusion but could work!

I'm sure we did some Wayford but I can't remember what. Anyone?

Old Mill, with two sets (not simultaneous) and no invisible men.

And then a new one (to most) - Andrew taught us Country Gardens, in Turberville's "Oddington Wells" style. Now if only I can remember that it has a right arm, left leg start!

It was good to welcome Meg to the practice, and nice to have Simon along too, trying out the mandolin - I'm not entirely certain whether Tony was serious when he said to bring along the electric bass next time!

So all in all we kept dry (except when dashing next door to the bar) and we had a good practice, to blow the cobwebs away (hard to believe it but we had had a whole 6 days off since we last danced!), and a bit of a social as well. And if it did anything to tighten up our performance that could be useful!

*DUTG: Digging Up The Goat. Formerly known as Digging Up The Cat. A couple of weeks ago, Chris Edmunds told me of another former name for this dance - or rather the name of the tune. I think it involved cats?

15 Aug	BIDEFORD	W/E
16 Aug	BIDEFORD	W/E



15th Aug - Bideford Folk Festival

August 15th, 2009 by Alan

Just a quick reaction, although I'm still too tired to think straight!

1) Good to see some of our dear friends from Bideford Phoenix again, shame we didn't manage to stay together but I'm hoping we'll be able to do that tomorrow.

2) Interesting to meet England's Glory; I'm sure we've been at the same place before, but I've never actually seen them or met them until today. Turned out to be a very nice bunch, very welcoming, witty and clever - and surely the best bunch we've ever tried to teach Wyresdale to, they managed the whole thing splendidly, even when the wrong legs and arms were crossed over!

3) We also met some more new-to-me sides: (apologies if I've got the names wrong, I said I would forget if they weren't written down, and - well - they weren't written down) Dead Horse, Black Bess, Red Petticoats; so that led to some more interesting times.

4) The quay at Appledore was a beautiful dance spot and there was a nice audience (and a handy ice-cream van). It was a shame that there were only the two sides there (us and England's Glory) but we had a great time.

5) Some uncertainty over the history of the festival. General opinion was that there have been visiting morris sides dancing in Bideford for the festival for 5 years including this one. But when did the folk festival begin? And was there just local morris before? Well clearly I misunderstood what Sue said to me when I asked. A trawl through the web suggests that the first festival was held in 2004, and it became a full week in 2005 - which is when we were first invited, I believe.

6) Thanks Grahame, Dave, Fiona, Jan, Bryan, Andrew and Sue for a good day out. Now all I have to do is get the use of my legs back in time to go and do it all, again tomorrow!

Oops - a PS, I forgot to say, how gutted I am that the Demon Barbers show is sold out. If I could've got a ticket I'd've taken up Sue's offer of a sleeping bag like a shot!



Alan says:
21 August 2009 at 10:17 pm
Re. The Demon Barbers Roadshow, there are pictures of them on Facebook which you won't be able to see, so I shall post some copies in a new posting (because I haven't worked out how to do it in a comment).

16th Aug - Bideford Folk Festival, day 2

August 16th, 2009 by Alan

Actually the title is a bit of a misnomer, after all it is really the 7th day of the festival - but only the second day of our (Dr Turberville's) attendance. We were there for the whole weekend, but, rather bizarrely, we came home in between - almost 2 hours each way.

But whatever the distance, it was a journey well worth making. I had a great time at "The Friendly

Festival" with the exception of one incident which needn't be dwelt on (I might discuss it some other time).

It was good to see - and dance with again - England's Glory, Sompting Village and our hosts, Bideford Phoenix. I was also much impressed and charmed by Martha Roden's Tuppenny Dish, and I must say a big thanks to them for the care with which they looked after me when I strained my calf. I'm not quite sure why Martin had to take a photograph while I was being tended but there it is.

The afternoon session at the Blacksmith's was as good as it always is, with plenty of impromptu dancing, although there were fewer there than normal - possibly a result of the clash with some big football matches on the second day of the season.

I kept hoping my leg would recover enough to participate in a dance, but it just wouldn't co-operate so I got out the guitar, and also tried my hand at using the video function of the camera I inherited from my daughter. She hasn't taught me all she knows about how to use it so it is a bit of a hit an miss affair at the moment. Anyway I *think* I captured Andrew and Barbara in Princess Royal, although I was a bit shaky and sometimes failed to keep up with their movements. I am keen to check the video, because there were many complements on the dancing - Andy in particular described it as "excellent, from the point of view of a musician who has watched many, many dances"! Thanks, Andy, and well done Barbara and Andrew.

I have to stop writing now as I've run out of time, but feel free to add your own comments and thoughts.

drew says:

17 August 2009 at 1:50 pm

I'd forgotten the name of the ladies side that tended Alan and his torn calf, perhaps he made the other team jealous!! They were very good in the technical sense, both dancing and tending. Yes, it was a fun day filled with good company [eventually] and much dancing [except Alan] especially in that relaxes PM slot after lunch and an ale or two at the Blacksmiths with Phoenix and Sompting.

Alan says:

17 August 2009 at 5:40 pm

The dancing never stopped - you and Barbara must have been exhausted (no wonder she needed a rub down!)

Martin says:

17 August 2009 at 5:58 pm

A really good day out, particularly at The Blacksmith's, in the true spirit of the Morris. Where else would you repeatedly be able to make up a 6 person set with pairs of people from three different teams (and interchange members between figures). Great Entertainment :-). A CD of my Bideford pictures is at Andrew's Surgery in Somerton ready for him to collect. Alan can negotiate hush money with Andrew regarding the pics of him with Martha Roden's Tuppenny Dish. I eventually left at 10:45pm after a small but very enjoyable session in Lacey's Bar.

Martin says:

17 August 2009 at 6:12 pm

Andrew asked me to take pics of Alan being looked after"" by the ladies. Glad to oblige :-)"

Alan says:

17 August 2009 at 7:11 pm

Martin, does that mean you're after hush money as well? I'm not worth it!

Martin says:

17 August 2009 at 7:46 pm

Me after hush money? I'll just wait for Andrew to upload the pics to the gallery as general entertainment Alan says:

17 August 2009 at 11:37 pm

I can confirm that I have genuine video evidence of Barabara and Andrew jigging. I will upload it as soon as I can find out how to do it through the Dr Turberville's Facebook group - or somewhere else. On a different topic, thanks Tony for the badge!

njuries - mutter, mutter, mutter

August 20th, 2009 by Alan

Yes, I did it again - Sunday morning at Bideford, wanting to put on a good show after having had such a good time Saturday, had a nice cup of coffee at the cafe and then a good three - person - reendition of the Duns Tew jig (well done Barbara!), then on to dance Wayford Cuckoo with just 3 of us in a 6 person set as 1, 4 and 5 (no not the 3 person Cuckoo, that's different!) - and what happens? Foot Up and ow!

This time it was my left calf.

In spite of the ministrations of the ladies from Martha Rhoden's (where did they find a handful of ice so quickly?) I wasn't able to dance again all day. And it's now Thursday and I'm still limping, struggling on the stairs, and very doubtful for Saturday's dancing at Wells Cathedral.

Anyone know how I can get it fixed up, super quick because I'm getting fed up!

Actually it is wonderful that we have so many members, old and new, that we can now still manage even though Jan, Ken, Barbara and Andrew have all been long - term invalided this year, and yet our programme hasn't been affected - we've done loads of events. Now Jo is going to be off for some weeks, and me (hopefully only for a few days). I just hope it isn't always going to be like this, let's have a fit and healthy year next year please!

The Demon Barber Roadshow

August 21st, 2009 by Alan

A few pictures taken by a member of the audience at the show on Saturday evening at Bideford.

The Demon Barbers Roadshow

Do you want to see more? Of course not!

The Demon Barbers Roadshow

Must be on the way down by now, surely?

The Demon Barbers Roadshow

Well, that's what we'll be like - next year!





Dancing *in* the Solent
 August 21st, 2009 by Alan
 Hot off the press, news about the morris weekend - or possibly the morris element of the Isle of Wight Folk Festival? I don't know, I haven't done the research yet.

Sounds interesting. Times obviously change, even on the Isle of Wight. Last time we were there, we had a bus tour of the island and danced at Sandown. Now they have a hovercraft and an underwater sandbank! Sounds fun.

<http://www.iwcp.co.uk/news/news/sand-sea-and-morris-dancing-in-the-solent-27972.aspx>

Tags: Isle of Wight
 Posted in News | 6 Comments »



Penguins ahoy!
 August 21st, 2009 by Alan
 Just read about Simon Pipe's visit to the Falklands on:
<http://www.falklandnews.com/public/story.cfm?get=5464>

Simon says he hopes to form a side and do some morris dancing while he's there - perhaps we need to get in touch and suggest that he should start with a Wayford dance! I wonder whether he could bring us back a *real* Falklands penguin?

For those who don't know him, Simon is a well - known and very talented dancer, and we danced with him with Frome Valley last year at Dorchester.

Tags: Falklands, penguin, Simon Pipe
 Posted in News | Comments Off



17 Aug THE BELL ASH + TREACLE EATER
18 Aug TO BE CONFIRMED TBC

22 Aug WELLS CATHEDRAL /WELLS CITY



22nd Aug - Wells

August 24th, 2009 by Alan

Still waiting for someone to take the plunge and write some thoughts on this event!

Taking the plunge

August 27th, 2009 by Heather

Here goes for some blogging on the Wells day of dancing. Some of us arrived early, decidedly un-Turbs like, but this was remedied by the later arrival of others ringing their bells loudly as they marched, at speed, through Penniless Porch. Cake was eaten, first breakfast for some and second breakfast for the rest, and zillions of wasps tried to get a taste too. It wasn't really zillions of the critters, but it felt like it to Angie! The squire was a slavedriver and made us dance lots, bit tricky due to the various injuries several of us were suffering from, but we had lots of people watching so had to do our stuff. Alan did a grand job of collecting pennies and pounds, abandoning his guitar mid-tune if he spotted a new arrival. We made use of our newly re-painted sticks, not only to demonstrate the intricate and interesting dances, but also to decorate the paving slabs and our hot sweaty hands with spots of green! After Jan had tried (



but thankfully failed) to squash a toddler we needed a pint and a pasty to steady the nerves. My nerves were steadied, can't say the same for my dancing tho' , of course the decline in my dancing standards was entirely due to tiredness not the beer! Lots of fun, just need those blood capsules to add the finishing touch!

admin says:

27 August 2009 at 5:03 pm

Can't argue with that! Except you didn't mention the bride-to-be who (despite having plenty of opportunity to realise her mistake, including first-hand experience of a Jed's with the squashed infant) said she wants us to dance at her wedding. Personally I think it's a wind up to frighten her intendedd other half off.

25 Aug CASTLEBROOK INN COMPTON DUNDON

August 25th Castlebrook Inn

August 31st, 2009 by Heather

Just a few belated comments on last Tuesday's dance out at the above mentioned tavern. There were lots of scary moments, firstly when it seemed that Gemma and I were the only dancers, okay for Gemma 'cos she can do some good jigging! Luckily other Turbs arrived who were fit enough to dance. The space was a bit small for our "exuberant" dancing, a cosier version was necessary, and I had to insist that one of the musicians, (you know who you are !!) had to refrain from standing too near the road with its huge whizzy lorries going past. We had an audience to clap, thanks to Gemma's supporters, and collected a bob or two. The dancing was followed by a marvellous music session, varied music and songs and varied joining in too, Staten Island and Foxhunters jig a couple of my favourites, and of course ale to provide sustenance!

29 Aug ALLWESTON TWINNING DORSET

Teaching? No thanks

August 30th, 2009 by Alan

Last night's event was an attempt to teach morris dancing to "those who would" out of about a hundred guests and members of the Sherborne Tennis Club and their French twin club. I think we achieved quite a good outcome, combining entertainment, a bit of education, and a lot of fun for the guests, but on reflection it wasn't the sort of event I want to do too often. I've always known that I wasn't cut out to teach, and this rubbed it in again.

What was the problem? Well, I can't really put a finger on it. Everyone there was great, very friendly and they clearly appreciated what we did. Meg worked very hard to make sure we were happy and well looked after. There was plenty of food - and it was very good food, too - and drink. But somehow, it just wasn't the sort of event that I want to do when I go out dancing. Of course my opinion might be coloured by the fact that I'm still frustrated at having to stand on the sidelines and not dance (the leg is getting better, but it isn't ready for Wayford just yet!) but it seems to me that we would all have liked to do more dancing; and 4 hours at an event where we only do four dances (plus the teaching) seems to be a bit light on dancing.

For the record, I think the novices managed the "Wayford Cuckoo" extraordinarily well, and I look forward to hearing that a new morris side has been started in Brittany. But I don't think I want to go and teach them.

31 Aug ALL SAINTS FETE CASTLE CARY

August 31st Castle Cary Fete

September 1st, 2009 by Heather

What a humpity bumpity field we had to dance in ! Was there anyone who didn't twist their ankle, hurt their knee or fall over ? We earned our fee, or as Jo said "danger money", I hope that the adjusted cheque doesn't get rejected.

Thanks to Sophie who came to the rescue and danced an admirable Jed's Jenny Lind, her first dance out too, well done. Maybe an encore at The Fox and Hounds ?

Thanks to Gemma for turning up, giving up her daytrip with friends, much appreciated by the crooked up side!

The sun came out, tea, cakes and burgers were consumed. Not sure whether that helped or hindered the second dance set?! Alan wonders if we gave value for money, those questioned gave a definite

yes. We did twice as much as the rather small troupe of majorettes and they're so much younger than us!!

Lovely to have Jo supporting us on the sidelines or was she heckling?? The dancing, tripping and falling was followed by a well deserved beer at the nearest pub, what could be better?

1 Sep FOX AND HOUNDS CHARLTON ADAM

1st Sept - Fox and Hounds

September 4th, 2009 by Alan

An "early" start - well, 7:30 Turbs Time, i.e. more like 8:00 - ensured that we managed to get at least a few dances done before it got completely dark. But in fact, that wasn't a problem since they have adequate floodlighting out by the smokers' shelter at the Fox and Hounds. Or at least, it was adequate for me - because, at last, I have returned to the "dancers" side of the fence. For all I know, it may well have been too dark to pluck a string, find a fret, blow a mouthhole or whatever the mysterious doings of that fine bunch of wonderful musicinas gets up to.

So, I took a gentle first step towards being able to enjoy my Tuesday evenings, followed by a gentle second step (well, it **was** Bampton, The Rose Tree!) and followed that by a few more. I didn't attempt any lift, all evening, and my feet did hurt at first, but I got through OK (at least that what I believe - the Squire may have something else to say).

Oh, and I did partake of rather too much beer, but there were no painkillers so that was OK too.

The invisible men, who always seemed to haunt the Fox and Hounds, seem to have had a night off

as we managed a passable Old Mill despite pushing Angie around. And Gemma danced a Sherborne jig, after rather a long break so it may have been unfair of Sophie to film it.

I took a picture or two but it was too dark for my camera so they are mostly blurred by the long exposures. Perhaps Sophie's pictures were better?



8 Sep HAM HILL PRINCE OF WALES

8th Sept - Prince of Wales

September 9th, 2009 by Alan

Weather: the day had been fairly warm, with intermittent sun but mostly overcast. The evening was grey, certainly not inviting people to sit outside a pub. Warm enough for dancing, perhaps not warm enough for musicians but you can't have it both ways can you? Dry, but drizzle began after we finished dancing so we got slightly damp, sitting outside for a bag session.

Audience: a very small section of a small audience appreciated us very much. Whether this lifted our game as per usual is open to some doubt. Very nice to see Nicky, Steve and family. Hope Lily wasn't

too disappointed that we didn't do a joining-in dance?

Beer: a variety of offerings from the Weymouth brewery were available and I managed to sample three - Chesil, Jurassic, Harbour Master: all quite different in character but all fairly fruity. The landlord kindly provided drinks all round on the house, always a good way to score points with me!

Dancing: yes we did do some, despite the early onset of darkness, eventually having to stop when it became clear that it is a bit optimistic to expect to be able to clash dark green sticks on a dark night. We were actually "early" in one sense, since we thought the start time was 7:30pm (no, of course we didn't start then!) but Neil and Jo - who had sent out posters - thought the start time was 8pm. In fact we'd done two dances, maybe even three, before Neil and Jo arrived, and they thought they were "on time". Dances included Blue Eyed Stranger, Windwhistle, Lads a' Bunchum, Much Wenlock, Winyard's Gap, Shooting (must remember to teach the Hinton Rounds at some point!) and Siege of Exeter, plus jigs: Duns Tew (danced with 6 people all in line astern!) and the Broom jig (Neil, with a parody by Drew). Janet may have a different list, because she was actually taking notes whereas I'm relying on memory. In the set were me, Drew, Neil (eventually!!!), Ken, Gemma, Angie (sometimes), Barbara, Len. Great to welcome Ken back, apparently fully recovered, and he could just about remember most of the vital bits of the dances! Len and Barbara too were back from an absence during which they picked up suntans and Turkish Delight, and they had a few blank moments - must have been the all-inclusive cocktails that did it. I tried to take it easy and nurse my calf, and things were going well until Winyards Gap - it just isn't possible to dance this without putting some effort into the leaps and capers - and I had to walk through Shooting. This morning my calf still aches but I'm optimistic it will be better for the weekend, especially if I find a willing volunteer to carry out the recommended treatment (it's alright it only involves warmth and massage).

Music: was provided by Tony, Grahame, Janet, Angie (except when dancing). The music sounded great. I twanged along on the guitar for just one (Siege of Exeter), I couldn't play for any more because I was tuning up. Every time I put my guitar down someone kicked it and it went out of tune. Maybe I should take the hint.

Afterwards: we sat outside getting cold and damp, despite the fact that it was a long way from the bar and hence impossible to obtain beer supplies until after the bag. Neil and Jo have made excellent progress in all the remaining bag matters for the year and it's all sorted, check the "Programme" page for latest updates (don't check until this evening, though, because it hasn't been updated yet!). The season officially ends on 4 Oct and we have our first practise on Oct 6th. That's a whole two day break, make the most of it! Sophie was making good use of the time doing maths homework but fortunately sitting farthest away from the "experts" who would have set her back several years if they'd started "helping".

Next: the weekend. Some changes to the list of attendees for Swanage on Saturday but the gist is still the same - meet at the Red Lion at 11:00 ready to dance at 11:30. For Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival on Sunday meet at 10:45 on the field.

12 Sep SWANAGE Folk Festival

12th Sept - Swanage Folk Festival
September 13th, 2009 by Drew

Greensleeves - With Bare Foot Belly in the Sea - Brilliant!!

Getting Into the Sea - a new Hinton dance

This is always a good festival to go to (hear hear!) As it turned out the day was the 1st festival for our

now piccolo player, having played for the Royal Ballet we thought nothing could phase her and nothing did. The Greensleeves dance done at waters edge with 6 Belly Dancers ? she didn't even blink! those of a male persuasion did blink - several times when Alan went for a swim with the belly dancers during the dance. Much laughter here! the swim at the end of the day left 5 people wet all the way home!

The events themselves with the trip from the Red Lion to the pier and back to the clock - meeting old friends and new ones - in a completely good humoured atmosphere was just the ticket - the weather played the game too and those that didn't get wet got a suntan!

looking forward to the next one!

Tags: Swanage Folk Festival

Posted in Dance Outs, Festivals, Special Events | 5 Comments »

Photos from 12 Sept Swanage and 13 Sept Sturminster...

September 13th, 2009 by Alan

...have been uploaded by Andrew in his Picasweb album. If he hasn't sent you the link, pester him!

PS I'm waiting for someone else to post about these two events!

Tags: Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival, Swanage

Posted in Dance Outs, Festivals, Special Events | Comments Off



Fox Border



Phoenix Morris



Hobos



Barefoot Belly



Bourne River



Greensleeves catches another one!



Hinton in the Surf



13 Sep STURMINSTER CHEESE FEST

13th Sept - Sturminster Cheese fair
September 17th, 2009 by Drew

Danced Out

This is the first time I have been to the Sturminster Cheese fair and am very glad I finally made it. Cheese to taste, Pies to buy, good music, Sunshine and friends to chill out with and dance with all day. It really doesn't get much better than this! A really good day for the team; we danced to crowds and were joined by 2 members of the New forest Medlars listened to the Huckleberries [who commented on our dancing] and played morris tunes. tired and repleat we headed for home! who was in the side on that hot day?



Alan says:
16 September 2009 at 11:31 pm
The photographer's website is
<http://tri.smugmug.com/Sturminster-Newton-Cheese-1>

Keep checking it, he or she may upload pictures from this year's festival any day soon!



Danced Out!

15 Sep Lion West Pennard

15th Sept - The Lion at Pennard

September 23rd, 2009 by Heather

Enough of all this technical speak! What about the dance out at The Lion on 15th september? Lots of fun, lots of joiners in for the last outside dance with assorted sticks, brilliant music session with accompaniments from the chimney breast girls (who? what?), indoor dancing - is that allowed?, guest musicians - thanks Carver and a bountiful moneybag. One of the best.

AGM 2009

September 23rd, 2009 by Alan

So we've been there, done that for another year (although I didn't get the T shirt, I *wore* the T shirt - the one I bought at Swanage Folk festival, that is).

Successfully done I thought, well done Mr Chairman Sir.

Now we can forget all about matters such as styles, traditions, kit, elections etc. etc for another year!

Except we can't, not really; we agreed to turn up at the first couple of practices with a selection of clothes so that we can try out the look of a few different kit options. I *think* Len said he'd bring his miniskirt but that might actually have been Ken. Anyway, so long as we have some black trousers, some white, some skirts, some hot pants and at least three sets of fishnets (for Andrew you understand) and - of course - some RED SOCKS then we can have some dressing up fun and who knows, we might even reach a decision.

Other matters of note: the election of new officers. Squire is now much younger (and prettier) than last week, and Bagman has been reduced to half of his/her former self. We still have the same Fool and Foreman however, but that's all right because I'm sure he hasn't yet exhausted all the possible different ways of teaching us to do Blue Eyed Stranger! And anyway, it'll take years before anyone else has amassed an equivalent set of fantastic Fool outfits!

In accordance with tradition we denied ourselves food (but not drink) until the end was in sight, but then the break to charge our plates was so long that the actual discussion didn't finish until (consults notes) 11:00pm. Which was rather late to be cutting the splendid penguin cake, but of course we cut it and dived in anyway.

Now when's the end of season meal due? And when do we have the "start of the Winter season" meal?

26 Sep MONTACUTE HOUSE FOOD FESTIVAL



Sidmouth Steppers



No Mean Feet

26th Sept - Montacute Pictures

September 28th, 2009 by Drew

Saturday 26th Sept saw Dr Turberville's host a dance session at Montecute House Food festival - we were joined by No Mean Feet and Sidmouth Steppers. We regularly dance with No Mean feet [Appalachian] and they are always good company; this year we have made contact with Sidmouth Steppers having danced with them at several sites at the Teignmouth Festival. What a good bunch and very sociable - would love to link up more often with them.

We stuck to the arranged site up until lunchtime and then moved to the front of the house by the main entrance. The sun came out and we danced to a crowd relaxing on the lawn for the rest of the afternoon, and finished off by dancing a Jenny Lind across the entire Lawn!



29 Sept. 2009 Dark morris at the Crown and Victoria, Tintinhull
Dance Pictures by Anthony Steele

