Roy Dommett's Morris Notes Volume 10

Transparencies for Morris Lectures Part II

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CONTRASTING THE COTSWOLD TRADITIONS

by

Roy Dommett

Friend of the Morris Federation

Bidford o

THE COLLECTED MATERIAL

ollmington Chipping o Braileso Campden Hintono oBrackley Adderburyo •Longborough °Steeple Oddington Bucknello Lower Swello Claydon o Bledington Kirtlingtono oAscott Fieldtowno Sherbourneo o Brill oNorth Leigh o Eynsham Headington Ducklingtono Stanton Wheatley Bampton o Harcourt

o Abingdon

D=MAJOR TOWNS

Stratford upon Avon \diamondsuit

- Dover's Games

Banbury

Stowe *

Buckingham 🔷

Stow on the Wold 🔷

Bicester

♦ Cheltenham

Kirtlington Lamb Ale.

Forest Fair ·

Woodstock

Witney

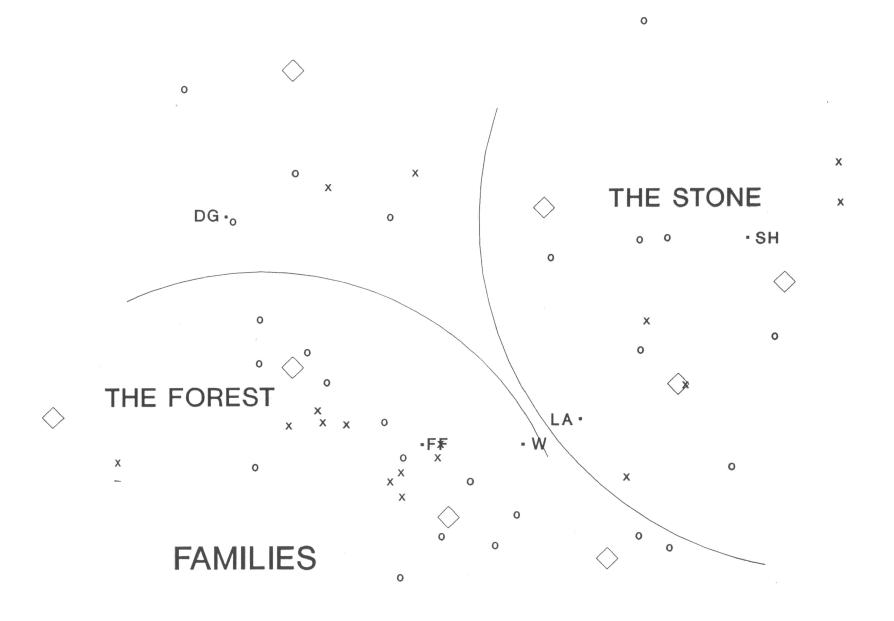
SOCIAL CENTRES

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MORRES AFRACTORS

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Bidford o

USEFUL SOURCES FOR ANALYSIS

ollmington

Chipping o

Hintono oBrackley

Adderburyo

•Longborough

Oddington

Bucknello

o Bledington

oAscott

Kirtlingtono

Sherbourneo

Fieldtowno

oNorth Leigh

o Eynsham

Ducklingtono

_oHeadington

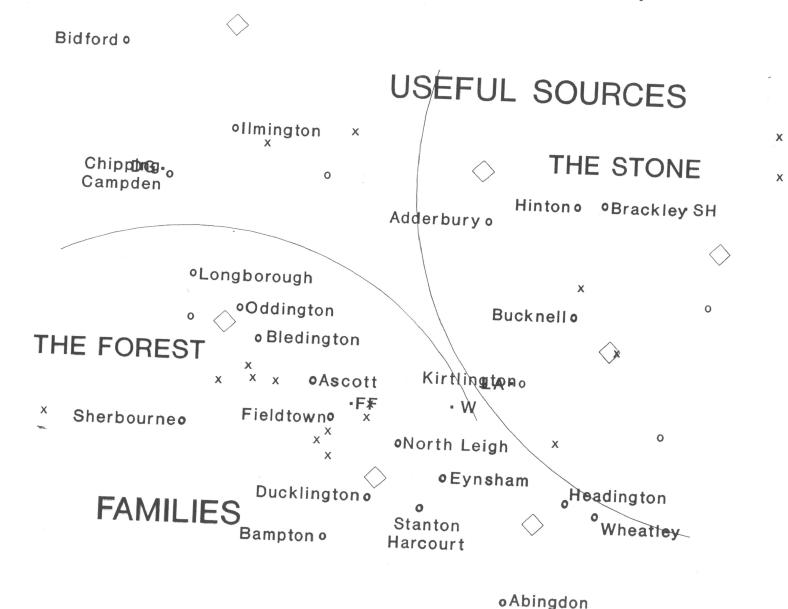
0 Stanton

Wheatley

Bampton o

Harcourt

o Abingdon



1

•Badby

Bidford o

CONFIDENCE IN THE DATA RATHER SUBJECTIVE

ollmington Chipping o Hinton o oBrackley Adderburyo oLongborough Oddington Bucknello o Bledington Kirtlington_o oAscott Fieldtowno Sherbourneo oNorth Leigh o Eynsham _oHeadington Ducklingtono Wheatley Stanton Bampton o Harcourt Abingdon

= High

RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMANTS

FRANKLIN - could not remember all the touches

FIRDTOWN

GOMME - fragments over several visits

WHEATLEY

HEMMINGS - remembered as best they could

ABINZDON

HOWARDS - unmusical but eager to please

PERACKLET

ROLFES - unsure of movement details

BUCKNEIL

C-TAYLOR - difficulty in finding standard descriptions of capers

CDDINGTON

H TAYLOR - how he wanted it and what he could do

LONG BOROVEH

RELIABILITY OF THE COLLECTORS

ABINGDON - dancers pressurised into additions

BRACKLEY - standardised and rationalised

HEADINGTON - Kimber's comments ignored

ILMINGTON - a reconstruction published

WHEATLEY - considered too simple

BLEDINGTON - search for earliest version

POPULAR MATERIAL - comic and vulgar dances ignored

THE TRADITIONAL REPERTOIRE

LISTS FROM 34 VILLAGES

SOME SEVERELY LIMITED OF COURSE

600 SEPARATE USAGES OF TUNES

300 SEPARATE USAGES OF DANCE IDEAS

LISTS AVERAGE 17 DANCES OF WHICH 7 ARE JIGS

PROBABLY 20 OLD & NEW IN REGULAR PRACTICE

NEARLY AS MANY AGAIN REMEMBERED

THE COMMON TRADITIONAL DANCES

TO OBTAIN A BALANCED SET NEED 14 SET DANCES

Trunkles

A processional

2 clapping dances

2 simple dances

3 stick dances

SOME DANCES SATISFY

3 slow caper dances

MORE THAN ONE REQUIREMENT

3 corner dances

eg Trunkles & Shepherd's Hey

1 tune with two distinct choruses

1 tune used as a set dance & a jig

LESSONS FROM THE TRADITION

- 1. GREATER EMPHASIS ON JIGS
- **EXPERIENCED & SKILLED DANCERS EXPRESSED**
- THEMSELVES THUS RATHER THAN IMPOSING MORE
- 2. FEWER CORNER DANCES WITH CAPERS SO
- AVOIDING EXPOSING POORER DANCERS
- 3. NUMBER OF DANCES IN PRACTICE NOT HIGH
- 4. EMPHASIS ON THE RECIPIENT NOT PERFORMER

FIGURES - SOME CHOICES

FOOT-UP

: to move or not

: which way to turn & when to face

HALF-GYP

: how far to cross

: dealing with interfering hands/sticks

WHOLE-GYP: phasing of body turns

: which way to turn to face across

ROUNDS

: turns into and half way

: how many stations to move

: face across or round at half way

HALF-HEY

: how many beats to travel

: morris, reel, Bucknell, slip, change ends

Wheatley	St Harcourt	Sherborne	Oddington	Longborough	Kirtlington hockle	Ilmington	Hinton	Headington	Fieldtown	Eynsham	Ducklington	Ch Campden	Bucknell	Brackley	Bledington	Bidford	Bampton	Badby	Ascot-U-Wy	Adderbury	Abingdon		TRADITION
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NOTE

CD=country dance;u2x=set dance up twice in foot-up,or middles go up both times in turn; asym-come back other shoulder; wh-whole; FU-processinnal up etc; alt-alternative to; hnd rnd-hands round; sh out-show out; cr & trn-cross and back; gali-galley half way through; s by s-side by side; ss-with sidesteps; sup; d=down; in=face across in Foot up,all into centre at end; f&b=forward & ...-walk round; s rr up-short rear up; dbl gal-double galley; sh-shuffle;

OTHER FIGURES THAT HAVE BEEN USED

Three Top

Rotate in backstep in figures

Circular Hey

Galley in Bar 2 of figures

4's on diagonals

Back-to-back along the sides

6 down centre line

Swagger Round

GETS TO BE LIKE THE OTHER TRADS

Rounds or Stars three on sides

Rounds or Stars middles to the right

Cross & Turn

Diagonals Back-to-Back

THE TRADITIONAL TUNES

7 TUNES WERE ALMOST UNIVERSAL

10 OTHERS USED BY MORE THAN HALF TEAMS

10% TUNES UNIQUE TO THE SIDE

Constant Billy

Greensleeves

Jockey to the Fair

Old Woman Tossed Up

Princess Royal

Shepherd's Hey

Trunkles

Balance the Straw

Black Joke

Brighton Camp

Cuckoo's Nest

Hey Diddle Dis

Highland Mary

Lumps of Plum Pudding

Maid of the Mill

Nutting Girl

Old Mother Oxford

Sherborne Jig

Young Collins

2 Locally Unique Tunes

WHY?

GOOD MORRIS TUNES HARD TO FIND
NEED ON BEAT STRESS FOR DOUBLE STEP
COMPENSATION WITHIN REPERTOIRES
CONTACTS & COMPETITIONS
NO ANTIQUARIAN DRIVE TO PRESERVE
SO LISTS DROP TO 7 -10 OR EVEN FEWER

IS THERE A CLASSIC MORRIS?

STEPS

Double Step, Subtle Backstep, Sidestep

Plain Capers & Spring Capers

Slows & Galleys

Turn out of feet, energetic sidestep, all turns "out"

FIGURES

Foot-Up, Half-Gyp, Whole Gyp (Back-to-Back or Face-to-Face)

Rounds (Half or Whole)

Heys (Half or Whole)

BUT WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

Cecil Sharp was convinced

Playford & 17th Century Social Dance

(not Court Dances)

Words & Sketches are Non-Technical

Legendary mss

Memories of Sharp's Informants
1850's are before real evidence
Are we comparing like with like?

COMMONALITY

COMMON ORIGIN

RECENT ORIGIN

HOW SPREAD?

FREQUENT CONTACT MEANS SOCIALISING

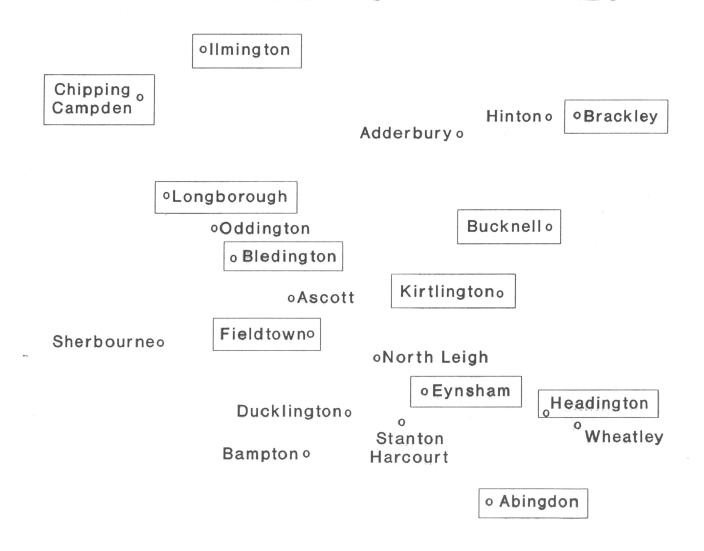
REVIVALS MEAN INDEPENDENCE

LEADERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS

19TH CENTURY ATTITUDES

Bidford o

TRADITIONAL REVIVALS



7

oBadby

Bidford o

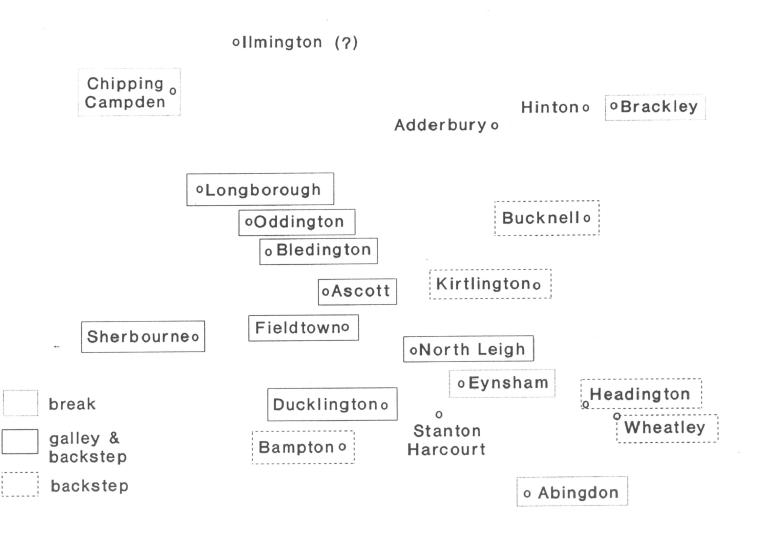
DANCING THIS CENTURY MOSTLY SMALL TOWNS

ollmington Chipping o Campden Hintono •Brackley Adderburyo oLongborough Bucknello **Oddington** o Bledington Kirtlingtono oAscott Fieldtowno Sherbourneo oNorth Leigh (at Upton near Didcot) o Eynsham Headington Ducklingtono Wheatley Stanton Bampton o Harcourt Abingdon

				REPER	REPERIOIRE			
	TRADITION	stick	9/8	3/4	heeld	Jigs	proces m.	m. off
	Abingdon	1		~	~	_	< _	<
	Adderbury	<u> </u>	<	<	•	<	ı	<
	Ascot-U-Wy	<u> </u>	•	ı	•	<	1	
,	Badby	<u> </u>	4	4	1	•	ı	
	Bampton	1		1	1	<	ı	_
	Bidford	<	•	1	< '	1	<	<
	Bledington	<	ı		<	<	<	_
	Brackley	<	<	ı	1	<	1	1
	Bucknell	000	1	I,	1	<	ı	
	Ch Campden	one		ı	1	1	ı	~
	Ducklington	1	ı	ì	'	<	ı	
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	Fieldtown :	<	1	.1	two	<	<	
	Headington	<	<	ı	ı	<	<	~
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	Ilmington	<	ı	1	1	<	<	
	Kirtlington	one	•	1	1	<	<	,
	Longborough	ı	1	1	<	<	<	<
	Cddington	<	. 1	ı	1	<	1	1
	Sherborne	one	•	1	<	<	1	
	St Harcourt	<	•	1	1	•	1	1
	Wheatley	<	1	1	1	<	<	1

Bidford o

ENDS, GALLEYS & BACKSTEPS



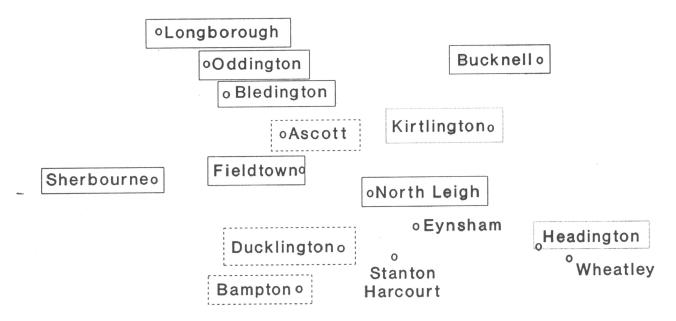
Bidford o (?)

SLOW CAPERS

(?) ollmington

Chipping o

Hinton o Brackley Adderbury o (?)



(?) talked about

(?) o Abingdon

Bidford o

SINGLE STEP TRADITIONS

ollmington in the revivals Chipping o oBrackley Hintono Adderburyo oLongborough Bucknello Oddington o Bledington Kirtlingtono oAscott Fieldtowno. Sherbourneo oNorth Leigh o Eynsham Headington Ducklingtono Wheatley Stanton 1 hop 2 3 Bampton o Harcourt

Abingdon

					-		
TRADITION		ST	STEPS			CAPERS	日景
INCOME TO IN	Basic	Back	Break	Side	Pi Cap	Half	Fore
Abingdon	1123		נביימיו	٥	1	•	
Adderbury	2	N /Ste	J/PC	•	<	1	
Ascot-U-Wy	Ħ.	xback	gal/j	0	<	Н	
Badby	<u>B</u> .	1	x 22	0	1	1	
Bampton	d/s	M/8	t H	o/c	<	ы	open
Bidford	7	•	۷.	0	1	1	
Bledington	乱	sh	hook	n	<	н	
Brackley	75	1	s/1 rear	0	<	ı	
Bucknell	乱	hockle	٠. چ. لو	n	<	Н	
Ch Campden	CA .	1	þ	ı	•	1	
Ducklington	2	εα	2c/801	0	<	٦	d et
Eynsham	d w		kick up	ı	1	١	
Fieldtown	昆	hbs	gm1/3	o/c	<	ı	
Headington	a d.	s/xback	J/FC	0	<	ı	
Hinton	8	1	1	1	<	ı	
Ilmington	乱	ÇA .	<u>د</u> .	0	<	1	
Kirtlington	克.	hockle	c.	O	<	1	
Longborough	10.	sh/s	gal/j	n	<	Н	
Cddington	乱	CØ	j/d.gal	n	<	н,	
Sherborne	1h23	G.	1/821	n	<	Н	
St Harcourt	昆	CA	د،	n	1	1	
Wheatley	M.S			n	1	ר	

NOTES:

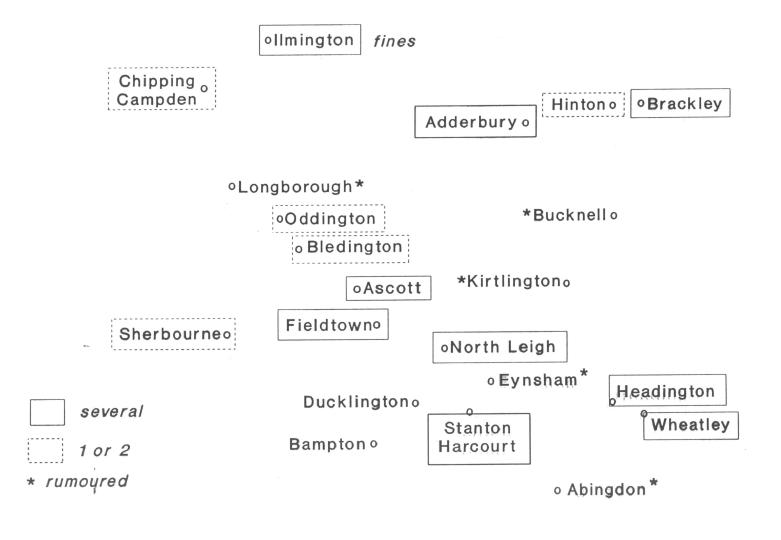
xft=Badby break; rear up=Brackley break; ½c=half caper; o=open; c=closed; f=furrie; sp-special step; sh-shuffle; hbs-hop back step; PC-plain capers; L-caper on left; md, ms=morris double, single step; d,s=other form of double, single step; w=walk; 1-} caper off left foot; dc-double capers;?-probably exists but not collected.

SOME DETAILED COMPARISONS

GALLEYS - 3 styles at least & variety of endings BACKSTEPS - from shuffles to hopbacks Emphasis on downward movements in different ways SIDESTEPS - open, straight or closed Turn of the body, arm movements, all different ARM MOVEMENTS - role in body lift SINGLE STEPS - pedalling, back pedalling jerks, kicks, manner in which it is taught single or double ring of the bells

Bidford o

STICK DANCE DISTRIBUTION



uåd	•	both dif	twists	uked	Wheatley
	1	dåu	out	dåru	St Harcourt
	dåu	lead tw	out	dåru	Sherborne
	dåru	alt arms	alt arms	alt arms	Cddington
	low wave	lead tw	out	up & shake	Longborough
	low wave	both up	ďn	dåru	Kirtlington
	low wave	lead low w	d&u	dæu	Ilmington
	wide wave	ı	ı	wide wave	Hinton
	dáru	twist	twists	strongd&u	Headington
	dån	point	out	dæu	Fieldtown
	,	1	1	various	Eynsham
	low wave	big show	at side	dåru	Ducklington
	ı	1	ı	alt.arm	Ch Campden
sna tch	low wave	point	out	sna tch	Bucknell
	low wave	lead low w	ı	low wave	Brackley
	low wave	lead c.w	out	C.Mave	Bledington
	ı	forw wave	•	dåru	Bidford
udad	high wave	Node	8472	flick up	Bampton
	١	lead wave	•	wide wave	Badby
dåu	dæu	lead tw	twist	dda	Ascot-U-Wy
	TOM MENO	-	1	c.wavedup	Adderbury
	i	lead up/		that udd.	Abingdon
Half	Plain	Side	Back	Basic	TRADITION
		SINGMAYOM	DINYH		

Notes:

d&u=down and up; u&d=up and down; c.wave=counter wave; wave=movement show-sweep of complete arm; point-stretching of arm to full extent. from elbow; twist-movement from wrist, usually at or above head level;

THE URGE TO BE DIFFERENT

Ungborough compared to Bledington

Wheatley compared to Headington

Ascott compared with Fieldtown

Abrupt changes at revivals

The Repertoire moving along

Special Features in the Dances

Reduction in Variety

NON STANDARD TRADITIONS repetitions Bidford o order in revivals ollmington very long oBrackley each dance or very Hintono Chipping o different short Adderburyo Campden stick dances singing flexible order pad out oLongborough rounds in Bucknello with heys corenre dances oOddington order of figures o Bledington tops first Kirtlingtono half figures galley left oAscott double length sing before end Fieldtowno figures oNorth Leigh Sherbourneo rounds in t wo corner irregular orders Headington o Eynsham styles dances limited Ducklingtono jigs as Wheatley figures set dances Stanton Harcourt many duplicate Bampton o figures go dances o Abingdon with dances

WELL?

HOW DID THEY DANCE?

WHAT DID THE COLLECTORS SEE?

WHAT DID THEY TEACH?

WHAT WAS PASSED ON?

MSS IS ONLY AN OUTLINE

MISSING IS STRESS, EMPHASES ETC

THE TRADITION IS THOSE WHO SHOW IT TODAY

EVOLUTION

Importation of New Musicians
Irresistable Tunes

Making a Mark on the Morris

Contact with Other Dancers

Special Occasions

CROSS FERTILISATION

ASCOTT - considered next generation Fieldtown BIDFORD - help from Ilmington and Bledington CHIPPING CAMPDEN - memories of Longborough FIELDTOWN - dances from Minster Lovell & Finstock **HEADINGTON** - Kimber collected some dances KIRTLINGTON - stated very much as Bucknell COMMON MUSICIANS - Hall, Woods, Potter COMMON DANCERS - Charles Taylor of Church Icomb

CHANGES IN THE MORRIS

BAMPTON - backsteps, hand movements, heys, sidesteps

BIDFORD - "handkerchief dance & stick dance"

Foreman chose movements when into the dance

BLEDINGTON - "Old" and "Young" sides

EYNSHAM - Dances built round particular figures

special to individuals

HEADINGTON - Kimber and Trafford differences

HINTON - of 1870 became BRACKLEY OF 1920

ILMINGTON - galleys, Sharp, Jubilees, Sam Bennett

THE DRIFT FROM FIELDTOWN

ROUNDS - change from Bampton like to The Rose

HEY - extra turn taught to Travelling Morrice

SLOW CAPERS - endless variety, but not the height

FIGURES - soles on ground, figure eight waves

GALLEY - when to or not

HAND MOVEMENTS - become mannered

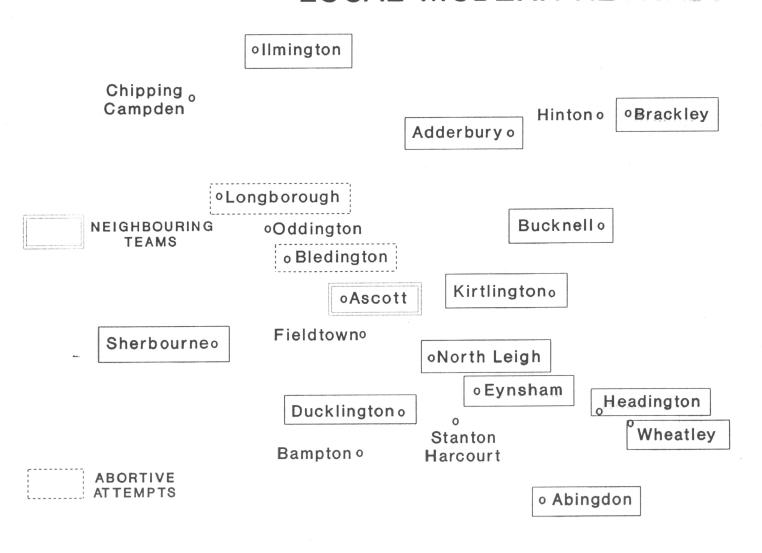
SIDESTEPS - open or closed

HANDMOVEMENT IN THE SIDESTEP - endless variety

∘Badby

Bidford o

LOCAL MODERN REVIVALS



MODERN SOCIAL INFLUENCES

20th CENTURY OFF-BEAT IN MUSIC
INFLUENCE OF PSUEDO TRADITIONS
(BORDER, MOLLY, STAVE, CLOG)

COLLECTORS, PUBLICATIONS & WORKSHOPS

THE NEW MUSIC

AUDIENCE APPEAL - REPERTOIRE

TODAY

REGULARLY PRACTICING MORRIS TROUPES HAVE TO STYLISE & STANDARDISE & FIND NEED FOR CONTRASTING MATERIAL **HEADINGTON & ABINGDON HAD TWO STYLES** MOST HAS TWO FAMILIES OF DANCES HEEL & TOE, STICK & HANDK, SET & CORNER WITHIN SINGLE TRAD DETAILED DANCE TO DANCE VARIATION STICKS, HANDKERCHIEFS & FUNNY STEPS!

"THE REVIVAL"

The "traditions" become stylised

Traditional Speeds & Heights Ignored

Stylistic Improvements Introduced

Repertoire & Dance Popularities Different

Reconstructions & New Choreographies Needed

How it was becomes unknown!

WHAT TO PRESERVE?

TRADITIONS NOW HAVE A CONSISTENCY

GENERICS

DRIVE, ELEVATION, SPEED, STRENGTH

SPECIFICS

POSTURE, ARM MOVEMENTS, SLOWS & GALLEYS

IDEAS

SIMPLE, NOT ELABORATE, DANCE NOT DASH ARTISTIC

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO EXPRESS? CHOSE THE STYLE TO SUIT

CLUB STYLE

ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON 6 THAT ARE UP

LONG SWORD & RAPPER BEST WITH FIXED TEAM

CLUB STYLE PERSISTS FOR YEARS

EG WHEN STEADY CHANGE AS AT UNIVERSITIES

BAMPTON VARIES WITH OCCASION

-ADJUST TO ODDITIES OF DANCERS

DEPENDS ON VISUAL MODELS OF MOVEMENTS

FEATURES

TRAD SIDES TOGETHER LOOK QUITE DIFFERENT IN THE SUBTLE DETAIL AS WELL AS OVERALL WHO WORKS OUT NUANCES OF EMPHASIS? WHAT MAKES THE CLUB STYLE? ARE WE NOT ALL SINGLE TRADITION CLUBS? HOW ARE THE TRADS & DANCES CHOSEN? NEED AN AWARENESS OF THE FEATURES INEXPERIENCE LEADS TO SUPERFICIAL COPYING

MORRIS BAD MANNERS

STANDING IN FRONT OF AUDIENCE

DENIGRATING ANNOUNCING

MEANINGLESS CHARACTERS & ACTIVITY

MORRIS TIME

ONS & OFFS

POOR DANCE DISCIPLINES