



The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

Issue #26

<http://www.whitehorsemorris.org.uk/home/4594741622>

18 March 2021

HobNob prepares to dance again?

Plenty of variety this month. Thanks to Graham Lever for providing a link to the William Barnes Society's youtube celebration, to Chris Hall for sharing some links to dance on YouTube and also to Kate Brooks for her musical quiz. Mark invites you start thinking about your contribution to the Great White Horse 70th Anniversary Bake-Off. The picture left shows HobNob at the 60th birthday party Reuben kneads flour to make delicious bread and building bricks with a high thermal insulation index. To balance this, the Squire has produced Part II of his fitness programme, which we are sure will prove extremely popular with readers. It is also good to see the Greek letter *Pi* making several appearances in this edition. We also record the sad loss of two members of the White Horse family, Ian Paul and David Kent who died in February. First, Helen provides an update on the programme so far as lockdown unlocks.



WHM Programme 2021 – the Bagman says....

As the Covid restrictions begin to ease we are working towards starting outdoor practices from March 29th at the earliest. Dates etc for weekday practices will be sent out after Fonthill Park Cricket Club has received confirmation that their facilities can open. We also have discussed holding a few weekend practices on Bishopstrow Village field. We need to know what level of interest there is for this before we put dates out so please let Mike P or me know by Wednesday 24th March.

The draft programme is now being put together with the aim of having our first dance out on Wednesday 19th May. Wednesday will remain our usual dancing out evening with hopefully a few weekend events too.

Many thanks to those who have put forward suggestions. Keep them coming please!

So far weekend suggestions are –

Saturday 3rd July Salisbury Day of Dance

Sunday 4th July Gold Hill Fair, Shaftesbury



Please let me know which of the above you are happy to support or not.

Helen Sanderson

70th Anniversary Ceilidh Cake

Now that we have managed to fix a date for the 70th anniversary ceilidh, it is never too early to start thinking about a celebratory cake. We might be catering for over a hundred guests. Let's say 140. Working on the basis that each person will (on average) be given one slice of cake and that each slice has a mass of a nice round 100g, that means we need ~ 14000g of cake, or 14 Kg. My personal preference would be for a good quality fruit cake, steeped in Brandy though I acknowledge and respect that fruit cake is not for everyone and there will be those who prefer a lighter Victoria sponge or perhaps a Lemon Drizzle, or for the chocoholics a Chocolate Gateau or perhaps a nice slice of Carrot (cake).

The density of fruit cake is about 1.22g/cm³, so we can see that (using the equation Volume = Mass ÷ Density) a 14 Kg cake would occupy a volume of 11475cm³.

“But what would that look like?” I hear you cry. That is nearly 15 Litres of fruit cake, so think over 16 wine bottles full. As resident cookery expert on the editorial team, Helen was the obvious person to put in charge of the baking preparations and liked the concept of Chateau Gateau as a name for the bottled cake, but she was not enthusiastic about the idea of baking cake in wine bottles and favoured a more conventional approach.

Assuming a robust height of 10cm and a cylindrical shape, all we need to do to find the diameter of the circular cake is to apply the formula Volume = $\pi r^2 h$ (where h is the height of the cylinder, i.e. 10cm, and r is the radius).

$$11475 = 10\pi r^2 \quad 1147.5 = \pi r^2 \quad 1147.5 \div \pi = r^2$$

$$365.26 = r^2 \quad \text{so} \quad r = \sqrt{365.26} = 19.11\text{cm}.$$

Let's call it 19cm, so the diameter is 38cm.

Unfortunately cutting such a cake into 140 identical slices would require 139 cuts with 2.5° between each slice, and each slice only 8mm thick. Impractical, and messy, made more so if we have to cope with any parsimonious lightweights who say “only half a slice for me, please”.

So what is the alternative? The Committee have been wracking their brains. Obviously a rectangular, less tall design would make the algebra easier, and a soufflé recipe would produce a cake with a much lower density,

and therefore a much great volume so the slices are bigger. And I am sure there will be those (from the George Osborne school) who say “no cake”, but we have come up with an even better idea, what Professor Heinz Wolff would surely have described as “a very elegant solution”.

This solution has lot of things going for it:

- It caters for a variety of tastes,
- It allows scope for the men and women of White Horse to let loose their creativity,
- It will provide more cake,
- It involves minimal mathematics, and no need for a micro-meter or protractor.
- It spreads the load and follows the principle first made popular by Karl Marx in 1875 “From each according to his ability, to each according to his need” (translated from the original German).
- It will be visually stunning, and (one hopes) gastronomically satisfying.

So what is the solution?

Each person is invited to bake and decorate their own cake within the theme of White Horse Morris – 70 years, and bring it along for judging and eating on the night of the ceilidh. There will be no requirement to stick 70 candles on your cake, as fire regulations at the venue include a lot of small print about multiple candles on multiple birthday cakes to the point where that idea is extinguished (hohoho). Cakes will be judged on the grounds of imagination, creativity and presentation.

Taste will judge itself. The first cake to be eaten entirely from the table will be judged the best-tasting.



You have five months to sketch your ideas, trial your recipes and use of food colourings, and perfect your

icing techniques. Go for it. Alternatively, we just have one cake as in 2011..... or no cake?

Mark Mikurenda

A Quiz from Kate

Complete the blank in each song. These words can then be rearranged to make a lyric from one of the most famous songs of all time.

1950s Rock Around _____ Clock

1960s _____ You

1970s Just My _____ation (Running Away with Me)

1980s Everybody Wants to Rule the _____

1990s Shiny Happy _____

2000s I Bet You Look Good on _____ Dancefloor

2010s _____ About that Bass

2020s You'll Never W_____k Alone

Cornwall my Home –

Hi Mike,

Have a look at this YouTube link. It shows two of my granddaughters singing with the County Youth Choir. Evie and Aggie (Cate's daughters) are on the first appearance of the singers after the piano introduction - second row, four in from the left. This was put together during lockdown and sent out just recently to celebrate St Piran's Day (5th March).

https://youtu.be/r1doM6_M42M

I hope it might be of interest to readers of The Prancing Pony. Hope all is well.
Ciao. Gool Peran Lowen!

Pat McGovern

A Close Encounter of the Vulpine Kind for Pat - Cycling Update 🐺 : Touring Cornwall

Whilst out for a ride through the lanes and trails on a crisp, clear early Spring morning, with not a care in the world and bowling along at a comfortable pace, the tranquility of the scene was shattered!

Having left
Twelveheads behind
and making good
progress toward
Goongumpas, a fox
darted out from the
hedgerow to my right
and made to cross my
track. I braked hard,
the bike stopped
immediately but I
didn't! I flew over the
handlebars, in a
graceful arc, to land
on the grass verge.



Stunned and somewhat surprised, I lay on the ground to reflect on this sudden change in circumstances. Whilst contemplating on the mysteries of life, the fox returned.

He came over and licked the top of my cycle helmet. As I leapt to my feet, he made for the safety of the hedge once again and disappeared. He either thought I was roadkill or he came back to say sorry. You never know what to expect up Goongumpas!!

Pat McGovern

Squire's Training Programme -Part 2

Thanks for all of the feedback and photos on the initial programme. Photos from the Hanky Panky section are on sale now from a range of adult sites.

Now that you have brought your fitness levels up to near performance level then this month's exercises will take you further towards your performance goals. For these exercises it is important that full kit is worn all of the time. Ankle weights are useful but optional.

5. Stepping

Find a stream with stepping stones and single step across and return with plain capers – do not fall in x 5
Repeat with double step and forey capers x5



Rest and take in fluids (not the stream). If you have no stream use wooden blocks in your garden. The picture was taken at the half point in exercise 1.



6. Gradient

In preparation for dancing at pubs like The Compasses at Chicksgrove find/create an uneven slope of ~25% gradient (it needs to be at least 30m long). See also No.7 below
Go to the bottom of the slope and use backward dance steps to get to the top. Once at the top go as fast as possible using side steps to the bottom. Repeat without breaks for 10 repetitions, rest for 2 minutes and then repeat for another 9 full sets.



Rest and take in fluids (beer, wine, cider are permitted)



7. Broken Surface

(photo taken at The Compasses 2018)

With your bubble partner(s) or a manikin in a mankini/cat/dog/budgie form a set for a Bampton dance. If you have some appropriate music please feel free to use it. Now dance the whole dance as if there was a full set. Make it vigorous but don't break an ankle.

Repeat for Lichfield, Pershore, Adderbury, Fieldtown and Medup traditions.

8. Collection Box Relay / Shuttle

Use your team from exercise 7 and form a circle of about 10m diameter (about 30m circumference as $c = \pi d$). Fill your collection box to the rim with loose



change/washers/weights. Sprint to the first person/thing in your team and shake the box. Receive money or a token and then sprint to the next and so on until you have completed the circle. The next person in your team takes over and repeats. Continue until everyone has had a go at collecting (a novel experience I know). In the absence of team members you need to do this yourself at least 6 times.

You are now fit to Morris Dance.

[To see the Squire practising what he preaches, and following his own training regime. [Click to Download IMG_2101.MOV](#)]

Chris Hall writes from the new Tory heartland (aka "the North") with something to share

Sorry not an article but I thought you might like to list these links: The first is a YouTube of a show produced a few years ago by Maple Morris from Canada with Morris Offspring from UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1URvenIcOJc>

It's very much a 'show' but features great dancing, music and singing. Anyone familiar with previous shows produced by Laurel Swift and Morris Offspring will recognise the style. It's previously been available as a pay to view show, but has paid for itself and is now Free :) Watch on the biggest screen available.



The next: <https://thefolkforecast.substack.com/about> is a listing to subscribe to. You get an email at the beginning of the week with a list of concerts, shows etc that are coming up during the week. There's a short review of each production and details of how to watch. Many of the shows are free to view, some ticketed and others donations. It's a great way to find out what's on without searching Facebook or the internet.

Hope all is well with everyone. I'll try and be inspired and write something for a future issue. Not sure what about though!!!!

Love Chris x

Famous for the flowers in his hat, Reuben Chappell has become accomplished with a variety of other flours

The various lockdowns over the last year haven't stopped Reuben working, so he hasn't had the chance to take up playing the trombone or any other fancy new hobby. He has however joined the lockdown bread-making craze.



Reuben makes two loaves a week, mainly on Sunday evenings. Almost always Reuben uses organic wholemeal spelt flour from Stoat's Mill, which is just outside Shaftesbury. Nice and local.

Spelt flour bread has a nice nutty flavour with plenty of texture. It is very sustaining. Reuben eats sandwiches most days for his work lunch and he finds he needs less when he eats spelt bread.

The first loaves that came out of Reuben's oven were quite dense and he thought that if it goes on like this he might be able to build an eco-house out of them, similar to a straw bale building. Or maybe they could be used to tether airships. However he has got a good technique going now and consistently achieves an airy crumb, as can be seen in picture 1, which is Reuben's latest bake.

Reuben likes to take a picture or two of each batch and send to family members. This reminds them that he is here, and reassures them that he is doing ok. Occasionally, Reuben will post a picture of his loaves on Facebook. He chuckles when his friends comment with platitudes such as 'Looks tasty' or 'Yum yum'. If they say 'Nom nom' Reuben 'unfriends' them without any hesitation.

Often, when tiling a floor or building a brick wall, Reuben will play 'spot the difference' to break the monotony of the work in hand. Would the dear readers like to have a go? Which is the odd one out of the following pictures?

The first person to answer correctly will get a dusty hug, when we are allowed to touch each other again. An extra hug if you can correctly explain the difference.

Bread picture 1



Bread picture 2



Bread picture 3



Bread picture 4



Bread picture 5



Bread picture 6



Bread picture 7



Bread picture 8



Bread picture 9

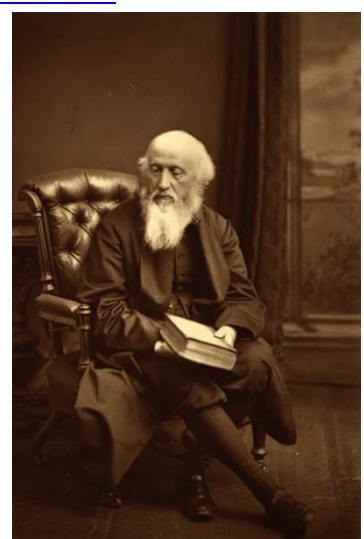


William Barnes (1801-1886)

William Barnes has been proposed as England's Robert Burns. Hence Tim Laycock and friends here creating Barnes Night. The link below will take you to a video on YouTube entitled "*Barnes Night: A Celebration of the Life and Work of William Barnes*"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uBQIbKODmk&list=FLubMqCcl-9mUb9vfVLdwhTw>

But Barnes was far more than a dialect poet. He was a schoolmaster, a philologist, priest, mathematician, engraving artist and inventor. He was a schoolmaster in Mere, which is where he wrote his most famous poem 'Linden Lea', as well as in Dorchester, where his most famous pupil was Frederick Treves, (later Sir Frederick) who befriended



Joseph Merrick the Elephant Man. He also lived in Sturminster Newton and lived his final years in the rectory at Winterbourne Came, where he was visited by the literary greats of his day, such as Lord Tennyson, Edmund Gosse and the young Thomas Hardy.

I hope you enjoy this celebration of Barnes Night, which contains a great deal more about this venerable polymath son of Wessex.

Graham Lever.

Ian Paul 1931-2021 Former Square of WHMM

Dear Bagman,

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Ian Paul on 24 February. As you may know, he was a regular participant in White Horse Devon tours from c.1959, later a regular member of the side from 1963–67, and Squire from 1966–67. Ian continued to attend White Horse tours with his family until obligations with the newly-formed Peterborough Morris (where he had moved in 1973) took precedence in 1980.

Ian always spoke very fondly of his time with White Horse, especially the tours to Devon and later the New Forest. Together with his daughter, Maria Leel, I recorded many of his memories from a long Morris career. I have provided you with a copy of the transcript for your club archive. You may also wish to include excerpts in your newsletter or 70th anniversary publication. With best wishes,

Matt Simons, On behalf of Peterborough Morris
[We have included the full transcript below as it provides interesting reading and contains several recognisable truisms about the character of White Horse. For a fuller obituary, go to

<https://www.peterboroughmorris.co.uk/obit.html>]



Dancing with White Horse Morris Men c 1959-1979

I have been a member of Winchester, Offley, White Horse, Cambridge and Peterborough. However, in the past I also had strong links with Bedford, White Rose, Chanctonbury Ring, Martlets and Leicester. On many occasions at Ring Meetings, I would often attend with one side but filled in for many other sides if needed.

My initial contact with White Horse was as a guest on their Devon tours around 1959 while at RAF Henlow when I was dancing with Offley (and Bedford who were short of men at the time). I was then posted to RAF Laarbruch in late 1961 after a whirlwind summer of dancing before Morris exile in Germany. I used to come back on leave and dance myself to a standstill when I had the opportunity.

Devon Tours

White Horse had barely started in about 1952 when they did their first Devon tour. With no experience they looked at a map covering a pretty large area, and plotted a number of desirable places to visit. I think somebody clocked up something like two thousand miles by the end of that first tour, so they restricted their radius very considerably after that.

I think it was in the summer of 1959 that I first went on a White Horse tour down in Devon. I knew Bill Bush and John Burgess from the Dinton folk dance weekends, and so I was invited to join a tour. A large number of quite illustrious names went on White Horse tours in the early days. We used to have indoor camping at Kings Kerswell, and they went on for many years.

I particularly used to like the first evening, on the Saturday we would arrive and have tea, we would have a quick rehearsal to remind people of some of the peculiarities of the side. White Horse did certain things in certain ways, which weren't necessarily completely standard. We would then go down into Torquay, arriving there at the sort of time when people used to get high tea. There were swarms of people just starting their holiday, just wandering around ready to be entertained. And wherever you started dancing, you would have hundreds of people around you just like that.

RAF Upavon

After meeting and marrying Vera at Laarbruch (the wedding took place at Peterborough Cathedral in February 1964) I was then posted to HQ Transport Command at RAF Upavon in Wiltshire. Having duly 'arrived' at my new station, the first thing I did after dinner in the Mess was to drive over to Westbury to report to Bill Bush for duty with White Horse. Morris Sunderland once said that my posting to RAF Upavon was, in fact, a compassionate posting to White Horse to compensate for the years of Morris exile in Germany!

I was a regular member of White Horse, and in 1966 I was elected Squire. By the time of the next AGM in early 1967, I was coming to the end of my two and a half years at Upavon and due to be posted. They asked me to continue as Squire, so I explained my situation and said I was willing to carry on. The following week, I said, "Sorry chaps, got my posting: Philadelphia in about three weeks' time". I was posted to Philadelphia as part of the engineering team at Boeing Vertol for the original Chinook purchase. We worked like crazy on the Chinook project for nine months and then it was cancelled. I was then sent to St Louis, Missouri as part of the joint RN/RAF team on the Phantom project. Both Vera and I had had enough of being messed around by the RAF and I took the opportunity to retire at the end of 1969.

Initially I got a job in Cambridge and was dancing with Cambridge and Offley but nevertheless joined White Horse for the Devon Tour.

I particularly remember leading the 1971 decimalization tour when the bag shot up because of people's unfamiliarity with the new coinage! For years, the bag for the week had typically been about £150, but that year it shot up to £250. We had a wicker wooden horse, which kids liked feeding, and were previously given ha'pennies to do it. But the new coins were too small for small fingers, and the most suitable one — the one which was more or less the size of the old ha'penny — was, I think, 2p. That was the equivalent of 4.8 old pence, against half an old penny: a nine-fold increase!

New Forest Tours

Later, somebody queered the pitch of Morris dancing in the Torbay area, I don't know quite why. We moved to Peterborough in 1973 following my redundancy in 1972. I found work at Perkins Engines. The Devon Tours ceased at some point in the early 70s and Martin Westlake, who was I think Squire at the time, started the New Forest tours. The original Devon ones were all male, with indoor camping. The Westlake family owned Sandy Balls, a large estate where they had caravans and camping, so thereafter the tours were based in the New Forest and became family affairs. With no Morris side in Peterborough at that time my dancing reduced to the Offley annual Derbyshire Tour and the White Horse Tours which provided our family holiday at a time when we were very short of money.

When Maria started at secondary school in September 1976, we had just done our first New Forest tour. She was asked to write an essay about what she had done on her summer holiday... She proceeded, at age eleven, to list all the pubs that had been visited during that week. Quite what the teacher made of this we don't know!

A spot of informal competition happened on one of the New Forest White Horse tours. Adrian Langford was one of Peter Boyce's boys at Weston-super-Mare, and I think he danced with Coventry at one stage. When I first met him in the 1960s, he was about sixteen. He was spotted as a really promising dancer, and Bill Bush invited him to the White Horse tour in Devon. For some reason, Adrian didn't fancy it, and John Burgess took him on one side and said, "It's quite an honour to be invited onto the White Horse tour". Although White Horse was what I would call an ordinary side, which accepted anybody who came to them, the guests invited on tour were outstanding dancers. Anyhow, Adrian was persuaded, and I think he went on every single White Horse tour thereafter. I'd never come across anybody who could leap higher in Bucknell split jump than Adrian. He really could jump every bit as high as I could, and I've never known anybody able to leap higher than that. I always used to like to dance opposite him.

The first time Queen's Delight was called on this tour I positioned myself opposite Adrian and there was a slight delay, and Adrian was talking to a young chap from Lutterworth called Hal, who was on his first White Horse tour. I couldn't hear what they were saying but I



suspect the conversation went something like, "If you can leap higher than Ian, I'll buy your beer for the rest of the tour". Adrian gave up his place to Hal, and we danced Queen's Delight. When we got to the split jumps he produced an extremely good leap with very good style, but I'll never forget the look of sheer astonishment on his upturned face or his, "Bloody hell!"

Anyhow, on the second jump he got a bit higher, and thereafter whenever Queen's Delight was called for the rest of the tour, anybody who was on the opposite corner to me was unceremoniously booted off it. I was quite sure what Adrian said to Hal after the dance was, "The offer still stands". And for the rest of the tour, he tried like anything, and he *nearly* got there, I was really pulling all the stops out to keep ahead of him. He never realised that he could leap anything like as high as he ended up doing at the end of that week.

We attended all the tours from 1976 – 79 when, unfortunately, a change in school term dates made it impossible to attend for the full week. However, Peterborough Morris (established in October 1979) began to dance regularly at Expo Steam in the 1980s so this became the new tradition for the August Bank Holiday. This, sadly, was the end of my links with White Horse.

Dave Kent

It was also very sad to hear from Ali Packer that we also lost David Kent in February after a long chest infection, having managed to survive Covid. We hope to have a fuller piece next month to celebrate his life.



Dave loved to come out to support White Horse's band line-up, along with his faithful canine companion, but had a remarkable career behind him as an aeronautical engineer. The pictures

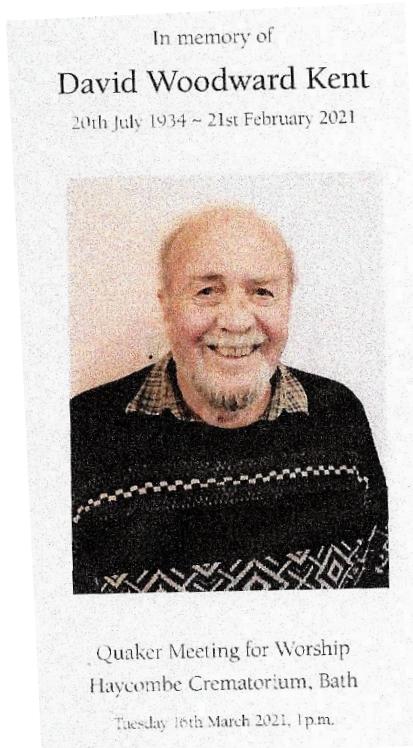


show him out on Morris duty with Ali and also standing next to a small aircraft he was building – though he never quite finished it – in the workshop *upstairs* in his house at Dilton Marsh!

Maggie and Liz attended Dave's funeral as representatives of White Horse. It was a moving Quaker funeral, with the coffin decorated with Dave's straw Morris hat and fresh grape hyacinths with bulbs attached.

The order of service included a poem, some photos and a message from David

I



Message from me

This is a message of thanks for a varied and full life, and for the many friends, both human and animal, who have filled it. I had thought of listing names, but there are far too many, some like me, no longer with you. With all of those, all of you, there were times of communion, occasionally of conflict, of joys and sadness. I thank you all for sharing them with me.

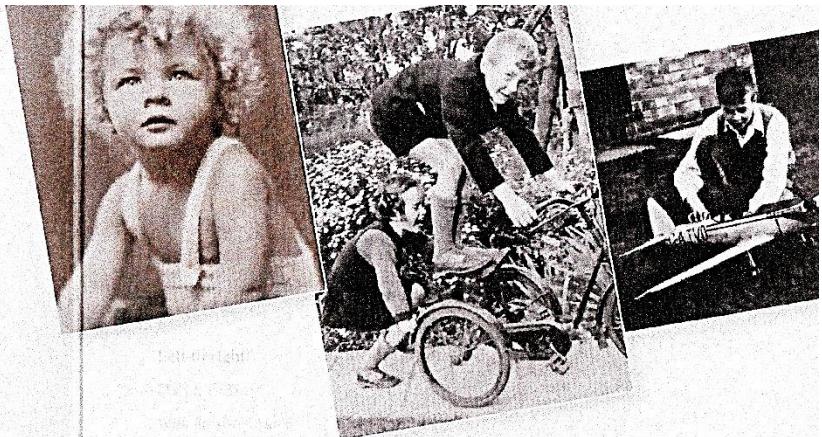
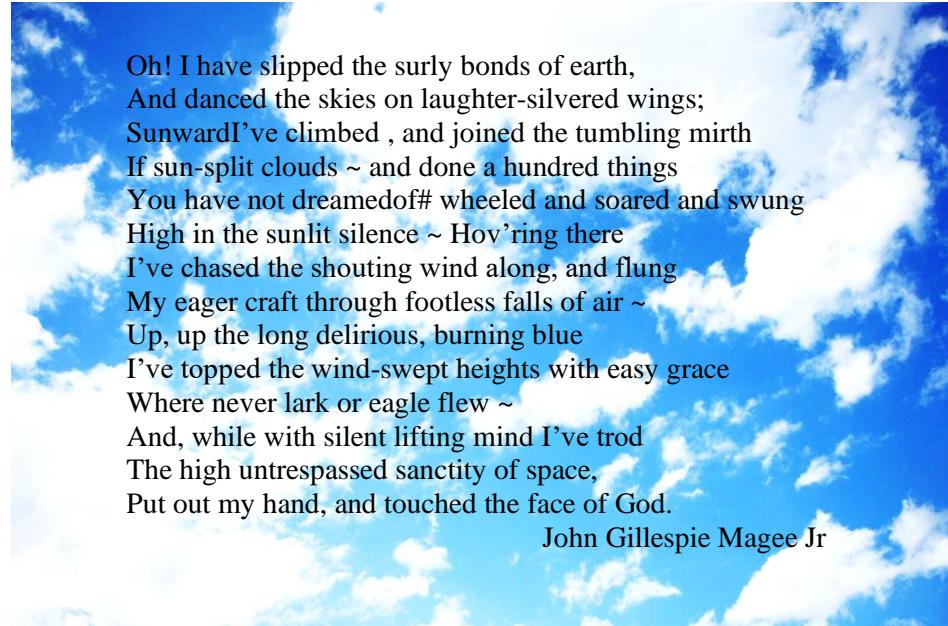
For myself, I am content, grateful for the wonderfully good times, particularly with my children, watching them grow and become established with their families. I did the best I knew during some terribly difficult and sad times ~ memories still around, but hopefully now faded relative to the happy ones.

Too much of life I have been on my own, but still shared much, wandering in a dozen countries or three continents; glimpsed Everest and the snow peaks, peered down into the Grand Canyon, spied on giraffes in the Kruger Park and swum with coloured fish in the Indian Ocean, and best of all, walked for hours and hours with the dogs in the English fields and woods. I've flown my little aeroplanes up huge canyons in the clouds, turned the world upside-down and spun it around, and built aeroplanes and flown those too.

So do not grieve for me. Just keep a few memories, preferably happy and funny ones..

What more could I ask?

Indie
July 2015



David 1935, with his sister Mary, and with a Chipmunk model, built from plans

David flying his beloved
Kittiwake with his first dog
Gyp as co-pilot



My first really distinctive memory of him comes from when I was about 6, and we were driving north up the A1, I think I was going on holiday. My father suddenly exclaimed 'That's David!' and pulled up ahead of a cyclist we had just overtaken (in the days when it was still possible to stop on the A1) ~ and it was indeed him, so we all had a chat by the side of the road. It still seems somehow typical of him, going his own way energetically where you wouldn't expect to see him.

Helen Cooper, cousin

Next month we will look forward to MayDay with an article on the Hastings Jack-in-the-Green. All items for the next Prancing Pony to Mike Perry by Friday 9 April, and preferably sooner.