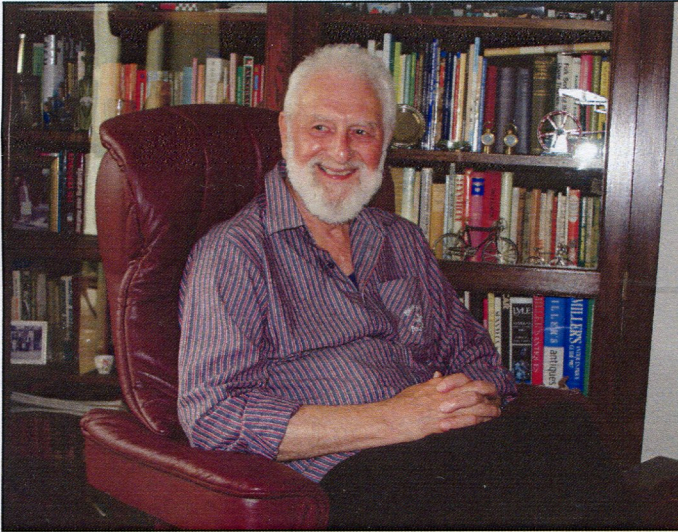


St. John's Chapel
Oxford Crematorium



A Celebration of
the life of

David John Titchener

13th February 1934 – 20th January 2011

Monday 31st January 2011
at 12.45 p.m.

Order of Service

Music to Enter
"Irish Fiddle Music"

Welcome and Introduction

Tim

(On behalf of Myra, Alec, Violet and Grandsons Karl and Aaron)

Reading

"You Can Shed Tears"

Mark Titchener

(David John's Nephew)

Music and Time for Reflection

"Time to Say Goodbye"

By Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman

"Memories"
Lindsay Stirling

Tribute to David John

Tim

Farewell and Committal

(Curtains to Close)

Closing Music

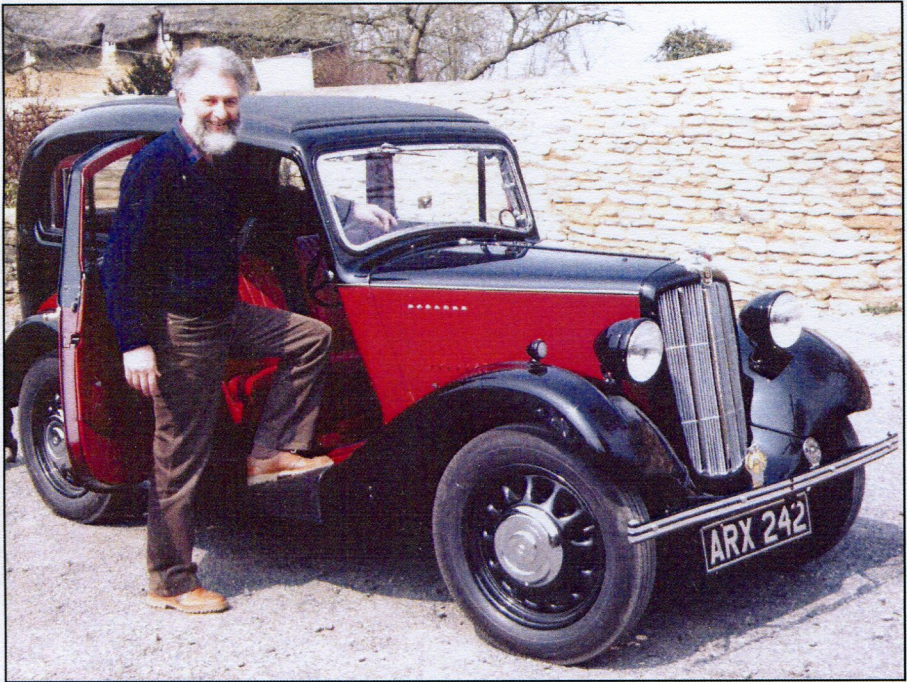
"Just Jazz"

*The family would like to express their sincere thanks
for letters, cards, phone calls of sympathy
and donations at this sad time.*

~ ~ ~

*Donations in memory of David John are for
The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK
and these may be left in the collection plate or sent c/o
E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxfordshire OX18 3LG.
(Please make cheques payable to either
The British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research UK)*

*All are welcome to The Lamb Inn at Crawley following this service.
(If you require directions to The Lamb Inn, please ask the Funeral Director after the service.)*



Two Bampton Morris dancers:

Colin Bathe and David John Titchener

Colin Harold Bathe died on 8 May 2011 at the age of seventy-three. His close friend David John Titchener, widely known by the nickname of 'Curly', preceded him by just a few months, dying at the age of seventy-six on 20 January 2011. Both were well known in the area around their home town of Swindon for numerous activities relating to sports and motorized vehicles, but it is their involvement with traditional music, Morris dancing, and song for which they will be remembered by readers of this journal. They shared many of the same musical interests and had 'discovered' traditional culture together.

Colin and I had spoken on numerous occasions over many years, but one Sunday evening in 2006 we sat in the courtyard of the Morris Clown in Bampton and, with a minimum of prompting, he outlined the evolution of his relationship with the local tradition. He first got interested via a folk and blues club in Swindon. His main musical interest was jazz, with the blues aspect having the greatest appeal. After about three years' attending and performing, club organizer Ted Poole arranged a day at which Cyril Tawney and Bob Davenport gave talks, encouraging people to go out into the countryside and collect material.

Colin and 'Curly' came over to Bampton quite by accident, knowing nothing about its Morris dance tradition. They went into The Jubilee and started chatting to landlord Reg Pratley, telling him what they were interested in. Within a few minutes he was singing to them, mainly snatches, one being 'Butter and Cheese and All'. He then produced sheets on which the words were written: Peter Kennedy had given them to him! Reg took them across to the Eagle, where Frank Purslow and Francis Shergold used to play in the bar.

The landlord was a one-row melodeon player, and after time had been called he would cover the pumps and bring his instrument out into the bar and play. Colin was intrigued by the melodeon, sold his guitar, and bought one. He became a regular at these sessions, but would always leave his instrument in the car, never bringing it in until the time he was invited. The first tune that Colin remembered learning was the Bampton version of 'Nutting Girl'.

Colin and Ivor Clissold started doing some work on the Alfred Williams manuscripts in Swindon Library. Every couple of weeks they would bring their efforts over to Frank Purslow, for criticism and approval, and following the

meeting would attend the Shergold Morris practice. There were occasions when they were short of a man and Colin was invited to join in. When Arnold Woodley, under the prompting of Frank Purslow, revived his team in 1970, following a break of a decade, Colin was invited to join as one of the regular dancers. That association continued until the well-known confrontation during the weekend early in 1974 when both Bampton sets were invited to perform at the Albert Hall Festival. The upshot was an irreparable rift between Arnold and his men, and the appearance on Spring Bank Holiday several months later of a third dance side.

The Morris set for which Colin had played for so long, never missing a year since first joining in 1970, clearly felt his loss over the dancing weekend this year (2011). For a long period the side has contained at least three men who are fully able to accompany the dances, but they almost always deferred to Colin. His absence was acknowledged on the Monday by each dancer wearing a black armband.

‘Curly’ Titchener was never a regular dancer in the Bampton set, although he knew the dances and at practices was as nimble as any man. Instead, he acted variously as cake-carrier and fool, as circumstances dictated, with his genial personality serving him well in both capacities for a good number of years.

He and Colin were instrumental in forming the Morris 8 Band, which played for scores, if not hundreds, of barn dance events. In this context Colin provided the melody line on melodeon while ‘Curly’ maintained a rock-steady rhythm on a cut-down drum kit. His heart attack in 2003, from which he fully recovered, forced him to retire from Morris activity, but he was usually to be seen out and about in Bampton on subsequent Spring Bank Holiday Mondays.

In a brief obituary it is impossible to document adequately a lifetime of achievement in so many diverse fields. For readers of this journal the salient details have been summarized, but scarcely do justice to the influence of both men on the local tradition.

KEITH CHANDLER

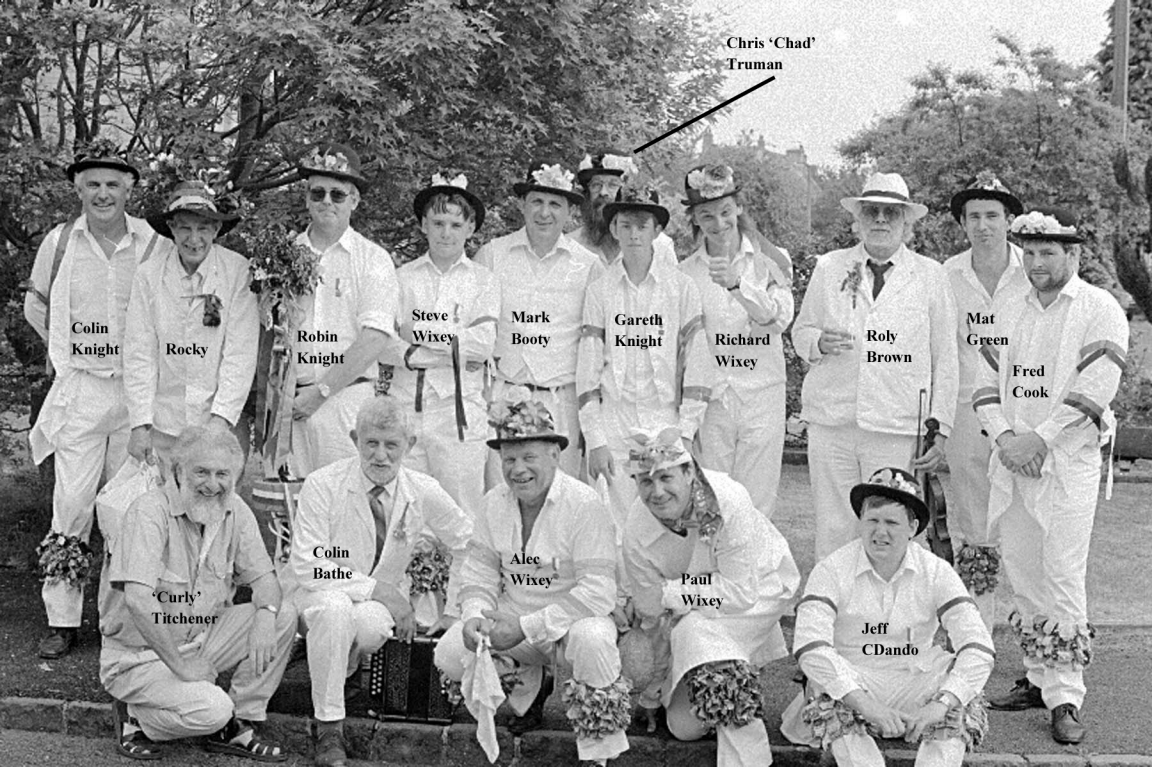
South Leigh











Chris 'Chad'
Truman

Colin
Knight

Rocky

Robin
Knight

Steve
Wixey

Mark
Butty

Gareth
Knight

Richard
Wixey

Roly
Brown

Mat
Green

Fred
Cook

'Curly'
Titchener

Colin
Bathe

Alec
Wixey

Paul
Wixey

Jeff
CDando



Colin
Bathe

Fred
Scott

Trevor
Hewitt

Martin
Hewitt

Andrew
Bathe

Roy
Hewitt

Alec
Wixey

Colin
Knight

Paul
Wixey

Alex
Titchener

John 'Curly'
Titchener

Richard
Wixey











Funeral program for David John (Curly) Titchener born February 13th 1934 died January 20th 2011. Standing next to one of several cars he restored. Although not a Bampton resident, Curly was a drummer and played at many dances in Bampton and married Myra Rose, nee Causer from Bampton. He fooled for Alec Wixey's Morris team.

MO4622 Traditional Bampton Morris Men plus children, in Glebelands in 1977. Colin Bathe on melodeon, Curly Titchener bagman.

MOA80A Bampton Morris Men; Curly (John) Titchener as fool in 1987

MO3EDE Bampton Morris Men. Curly (John) Titchener as bagman and Roy Hewitt as fool, 1981

MO0764 John 'Curly' Titchener carrying the cake for Arnold Woodley's side in 1973

MORRIS~4 The Hewitt brothers, centre and on the right, both Morris dancers, outside the Eagle in 1989. Alec Wixey and Curly (John) Titchener with their backs to the camera

BA7533 A WI barn dance in the WI Hall (now called the Village Hall) with Jamie Wheeler on melodeon, Andrew Bathe of fiddle, Colin Bathe (beard) on melodeon and 'Curly' John Titchener on drums.

MO03F4~1 Bampton Morris Men. Back row L-R:- Colin Knight, Ernie Hunt, Robin Knight, Steven Wixey, Mark Booty, Chris Truman (Chad), Gareth Knight, Richard Wixey, Roly Brown, Mathew Green, Fred Cook. Front row L-R:- John 'Curly' Titchener, Colin Bathe, Alec Wixey, Mark Booty, Jeff Dando. Year about 1985

B0002 Bampton Morris Men at practise behind Elephant and Castle May 1985. Roly Brown on fiddle and on the left from nearest the camera are Mark Booty, Alec Wixey and John 'Curly' Titchener. Right at the back Colin Bathe is standing next to Roly and Mathew Green to his left. The three on the right from nearest the camera are Trevor Hewitt, Richard Wixey and Colin Knight

B0003 Bampton Morris Men practise behind the Elephant and Castle. July 1985. Left to right Richard Wixey, Colin Knight, Colin Bathe (back to camera), Richard Buckingham and Anthony Collett. Seated watching are John 'Curly' Titchener and his wife on his left Myra.

Obituary by Keith Chandler for Colin Bathe who died May 8th 2011 & John 'Curly' Titchener who died January 20th 2011. Both life long friends, originally

from Swindon, but Curly lived most of his adult life in Witney and both always had a very strong connection with the folk world and Bampton Morris.