

BAMPTON HONOURS CUSTOM

70-Years-Old Fiddler Leads Dancing

It was again evident on Whit Monday that the Bampton Morris Dancers have not lost any of their attraction for those interested in old folk dances and morris dances. Large numbers of visitors from the surrounding district and some from as far away as London, visited Bampton on Monday to watch this centuries old custom of morris dancing in the streets. The Morris Men in their quaint costumes bedecked with ribbons and bells were again under the leadership of the 70 years old fiddler, Mr. W. Wells, and from about 9 a.m. until dusk they danced almost continuously in the streets and in the gardens of the larger houses. Fortunately the weather was fine for the greater part of the day and the people who gathered to watch were able to see the dancing to advantage.

In the opinion of Mr. Wells, more visitors were present on this occasion than for several years past.

WHIT-MONDAY TOOK THE



Every Whit Monday for 500 years the Morris dancers of Bampton, in South Oxfordshire, have performed in the village streets. They did yesterday, too, led by "Old Jingy"—80-year-old Mr. William Wells—the fiddler.

Newspaper clipping from 1938. Jinky Wells was still playing for the Bampton Morris on Whit Monday aged 70. He was born in 1868 (and died in 1953). He lost much of his sight through not having conjunctivitis treated soon enough and became quite deaf as he got older but he still managed to play.