

3, Primrose Cottages,
Weald, Bampton,
OXFORD. OX8 2JA.

24th. January, 1972.

Dear Bill,

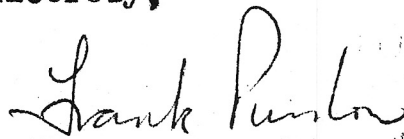
Sorry I've taken so long to reply to your letter of the 20th. December. Sorry, also, to hear that you won't be able to make our August Morris week-end. However, there is always the next time, and we shall be seeing you in June anyway.

We heard that Francis' team was going to the Birmingham Festival; they are quite a decent crowd. It is an enormous pity that Arnold and he cannot work together. On the other hand their styles of dancing are so dissimilar that it would be impossible anyway. To put you more in the picture: It is not generally known nowadays that Jingly Wells actually broke with the old Bampton team and formed his own team back in 1925. The Society has always followed Wells - an old dancer said to me (about "the people from London") "they saw Wells fiddling and naturally thought he was playing for the traditional team." However, the old team did keep going - Sam Bennett and Bertie Clark fiddling. Arnold Woodley joined this team in 1938 and was taught in the old way. Francis (and Roy) Shergold joined Wells' team in 1937 and were taught quite differently. For a while after the War Arnold and Francis were together in one team, and Arnold actually amended his dancing to what Wells had taught. Unfortunately, things did not work out, and first Francis left the team (and returned at Arnold's request) and then Arnold left - and formed his own team. The two teams have existed side-by-side for twenty years now, though due to Arnold's illness, his team was dormant for some years in the 60's. Because of the E.F.D.S.S.'s championing of Francis, Arnold has tended to be left out in the cold, but has now decided that it is time the position was evened out a bit. He has some very good dancers (he is a much more thorough teacher than Francis) and is every bit as traditional, if not more so. The dancers of both teams are on normal friendly terms, although there are, of course, the odd one or two who are "more royal than the King".

It might be a good idea to invite them to your June meeting - although you had better not tell Arnold I suggested it! (I am trying to be neutral in this matter, but being Arnold's bagman makes it a little difficult).

However, hoping to hear more from you regarding the June business,

Sincerely,

Frank Puster