

Roger Conway Summary 16/03/15

Grandfather was a pianist..musical influence

Grew up in Epsom Surrey, in 60's attended Epsom Song Club

Exeter University, met Barry Moule & Bill Rutter & volunteered at Sidmouth Folk Festival 1968/69 worked for the Festival..moved back to SE then returned to SW

Attended Taunton Folk Club run by the Moggs

Folk Camps..involved (through Barry Moule) for 23 years..& ended up running them

Geoff & Bessie Rye (early 60's) ran EFDSS hols..Folk Camps a cheaper alternative (still running today!)

Became early trustee of Halwsay Manor ..song club down in cellar (steps down near Ladies Loo)

Brian Heaton suggested RC join as trustee in 70's/early 80's as building surveyor

Ruth & Mike Cavill managers

Management generally un-businesslike & relying on volunteers

Met Pete Shuttler. Joyce & John Bothwick treasurer/manager (?)

RC took over as treasurer

Graham & Betty Roberts/ Geoff & Bessie Rye involved in management

Water always a problem/issue. Disputes with neighbours

Roof repairs estimated at £5,000 in the '70's..still never been done ..but ok!

Mews acquired, commercial bookings (through Bruce & Pepsi Green) eg Clarks for midweek

RC ran bar. Martin Radford (singer general "dogsbody") disabled loved singing "Wild Mountain Thyme"

Martin Lang with RC authorised to ask managers to leave

Bernard Huxtable professional manager for 4 years

Rexworthys..loyal domestic staff

Bar..RC with Graham Coggins constructed the bar from old church pews

Inland Revenue Scotsman brought in (Mc Clure?)

Roger has had a strong connection with the Morris tradition over the years..Taunton Deane (bagman & squire) Chalice, Exeter, Benfield, Boars Head, Withy & back to Taunton Deane

Since having had cancer & shoulder surgery Roger now plays melodeon rather than dancing

These days he leads walks at Halsway Manor

Roger plays some tunes for us to finish the interview

Gibby Swaine