

## Steven Mansfield

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**From:** Dave Thomas [dave@softmuse.plus.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 March 2010 8:44 PM  
**To:** squire@perthmorrismen.org  
**Subject:** Early Perth Morris 1974

Hi - I'm Dave Thomas, one of the co-founders of Perth MM back in 1974, and indeed on the famous photo on your site. (That's me squatting down at the front, holding a babe in stylish Morris hat & nappy - my eldest son, Ian....)

A fellow Morris Man (from Banchory Morris - near Aberdeen, Scotland) spotted your site while visiting Perth recently, including a picture of me in 1974.

It was indeed the first outing, in Hay St., after extensive practice (at least a fortnight!) in Subi, in our back garden and living room (4 Finlayson St., now demolished) and at 19 Robinson St.

I have similar photos (mostly black & white) from then. These include some classic ones not long after - at the something or other wine festival up towards the hills) - in mid-dance, where it's hard to spot any two people standing on the same foot and/or waving the same arm/stick/hanky/leg... I can let you have images of the same.

Myself and John Holliday (squatting with box next to me) were the prime movers. The others were all close friends from the small incestuous Perth folkie scene at the time (W.A.Folk Fed, Governor Broome and The Stables Club). Everyone lived in everyone else's pockets, and it was great fun - a really good time; (with a few problems with "when the music stops change partners", but...).

Myself and then wife Phil (squatting front, short hair) were very largely responsible for the great folk dance "boom" in Perth at the time - I was (and still am) a dance calling nut. My Morris experience was very limited (namely at age of 8 in 1953), but John H was the Morris aficionado, having danced with South Shropshire and others. He provided dances, music on his box and enthusiasm.

We co-opted Erik Kowarski (at left on photo) to fiddle for us - amazing musician, only needed to hear a dance a couple of times thro to play it perfectly...

So the 1974 photo line up was, left to right at the back:-

- o Erik Kowarski (still in Perth, Bayswater, & recently back playing in the Mucky Duck - which started about the same time as part of the folk/bush dance boom); he has studio Pocket Universe Music Recording Studio)
- o Dick Wilkinson with drum (then teacher and sculptor extraordinaire) o John Watson (soon moved to Albany and started/helped start Albany MM, contactable)
- o Keith something (can't remember any more I'm afraid)
- o Dave Foster (still in Perth? - traceable thro' Dave Varey below) o Dave Varey (back in U.K. for ages and contactable) o Phil Price (hiding behind, general groupie and beginner box player & one time tone-deaf piano tuner)
- o Davey Brown (beautiful Irish singer; he and Erik used to sing/play together)
- o Arthur something (American/Canadian? and all-round good thing - lost touch)

And, left to right in front:-

- o Annie Hoar (groupie and all-round good thing) & young son Nicky o Dave Thomas (me) & young son Ian o John Holliday (our Morris authority, now back in UK and contactable) o Jan Henry (also groupie and all-round good thing, Stables Club starter-up with Ken Kenny & I, now down in Albany & contactable) o Phil Thomas (my then wife, back in UK &, like me, re-married)

I've been up here in Scotland for most of the intervening 35 years or so since we returned - and dancing until recently with Banchory Morris (25 miles west of Aberdeen). We look very much like the Perth men, age, beards, decrepitude no doubt..., and even colours - I persuaded Banchory to go for the Subi football colours when we were taking to long to make up our minds).

I've now moved away up to near Inverness -Kinloss/Findhorn), but since my heart is badly buggared, very sadly no dancing any more).

Let me know if you would like any more photos/info

Cheers,  
Dave Thomas  
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Dave Thomas,  
(moderately aged whitehaired dancer, singer, musician and fool), Kinloss, Near Findhorn and Inverness, Scotland Tel (01309)-690946 9 Whiteinch, Kinloss, Forres, IV36 3TS