

& District

Hayfield dance revived



CHAPEL Morris Men have revived a Hayfield tradition which was first recorded in 1815. That was when morris men danced to celebrate the bedding of new rushes in the church.

And the Chapel team recreated the dance in this year's Hayfield Carnival procession where they were pictured.

It aroused a great deal of interest among the spectators, many of whom said they could remember the dance from their youth. And the team picked up useful information on the original costumes worn, which were predominantly red and blue.

Records show that morris men danced in the 1865 Carnival and that attempts were made to revive the tradition between 1928 and 1935.

Research by Mr. Dan Howieson, of the East Midlands, who interviewed dancers from the 1915 and 1928 teams, has produced much of the information on the Hayfield dance but the Chapel team have also done research of their own.

They made the costumes themselves and even acquired a drum which the dance demands. They will definitely be dancing at Hayfield Carnival next year and hope to include the dance in their repertoire.

The Chapel Morris Men dancing at Hayfield were: Ray Aucott, Jim Hurst, Roger Howard, Neil McKay, Alan Wilson (drummer), Ged Morten, Randall Dawson (accordion), Harry Phillips, Will Newman, Mike Bradley, Arthur McArdle and John Newton.

