

## Tell me about the dances you do.

Devil's Dyke Morris Men mainly perform dances which seem to have originated in the Cotswold area. 'Morris' generally is used to cover dances with a formal or ritual function, traditionally formed by a small practised set of same-sex dancers, usually male. This contrasted strongly with social dances which were performed in more relaxed circumstances by both sexes.



The Cotswold Morris is characterised by a mixture of dances with either handkerchiefs or sticks. We call dance styles by the names of the original villages. So when you hear us announce a dance 'from Fieldtown' or 'in the style of Bledington', this is what we are referring to.

Each village style has its own characteristics. But there are also very many dance figures, steps and movements common to all of them. Devil's Dyke try to maintain a high standard of dance and keep the styles separate as best we can.

## I have an event coming up. Could you dance for me?

We are always happy to consider paid or charitable events. Because we all have other commitments some notice is usually required, but if you think our dancing would enhance your event, please talk to the bagman, Nick Kerry, on 01638 742116.

## Why dance the Morris?

Basically because it is fun! It is an excellent method of exercise, as you may notice from the men's faces at the end of a vigorous dance, and we get to visit many lovely spots in the best time of the year, besides joining in a thriving social scene. Equally as important, however, is the feeling that we are preserving an important part of our culture. The Morris has survived for more than five hundred years, and we hope to pass it on to future generations.

### Would you like to be a Morris Man?

Like most things taking part is much more enjoyable than looking on, so if you have enjoyed watching us, why not join us?

The Morris needs dancers as well as spectators. We always welcome new dancers. No experience is necessary and any age qualifies. All you need is basic fitness and commitment. There is no charge. We practice every Thursday night from October to April from 8.00 to 10.00pm at the Youth Centre, High Street Bottisham (next to the Church), usually followed by refreshment at our home pub, the Carpenter's Arms, Great Wilbraham. Join us and by the next May Day you could be dancing!

If you are interested please talk to one of the men, or ring Nick Kerry on 01638 742116. You could also visit our web-site [www.ddmm.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.ddmm.freeserve.co.uk).

# The Devil's Dyke Morris Men



## Programme 2003



## Who are the Devil's Dyke Morris Men?

The Devil's Dyke Morris Men have been entertaining people in and around the Newmarket and Cambridge area for many years. The side takes its name from the Devil's Dyke, an impressive earthwork which stretches some seven miles from Woodditton to Reach. It was built in the Dark Ages, during the 6th or 7th century, to keep out marauding Mercians. Strategically it was well placed across a bottle-neck between dense woodlands in the South and the waters of the Fens in the North (as symbolised in our badge on the back cover). The Dyke is still impressive, and makes an excellent half day's walk. We danced the length of it in May 2001 on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts and the Guidedogs for the Blind Association.

## What's the history of the Morris?

Morris dancing certainly goes back to late mediaeval times—its earliest mention is from about 1460. It was often officially frowned on in the century following the Reformation, but experienced a renaissance after the restoration of Charles II in 1660. But by the end of the 19th century the Morris had become rather unfashionable, and came close to dying out before it was revived by the efforts of Cecil Sharp and others. Sharp first saw the Morris on Boxing Day 1899; we celebrated the centenary of that occasion on Boxing Day 1999, so the revival is now in its second century.

This year, we are supporting **Emmaus UK**, a charity dedicated to the principle of 'Helping Homeless People Help Themselves'. Please assist us with your contributions.

## Where can we watch you?

### MAY

Thursday 1st	Wandlebury Great Wilbraham, <i>Carpenter's Arms</i>	5.20 am 7:30 pm
Monday 5th	Reach Fair	1.00 pm onwards
Thursday 8th	Gazeley, <i>Chequers</i> Dalham, <i>Affleck Arms</i>	7:30 pm 8:30 pm
Thursday 15th	Newton, <i>Queen's Head</i> Harlton, <i>Hare &amp; Hounds</i>	7:30 pm 8:30 pm
Thursday 22nd	Stretham, <i>Red Lion</i> Wicken, <i>Maid's Head</i>	7:30 pm 8:30 pm
Friday 30th	Borough Green, <i>Bull</i> Carlton, War Memorial West Wrattling, <i>Chestnut Tree</i>	7:30 pm 8:15 pm 8:45 pm

### JUNE

Thursday 5th	Histon Road (Cambridge), <i>Grapes</i> Cambridge, <i>Kingston Arms</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Thursday 12th	Chippenham, <i>Tharp Arms</i> Snailwell, <i>George and Dragon</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Thursday 19th	Great Wrattling, <i>Red Lion</i> Withersfield, <i>White Horse</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Sunday 22nd	Addenbrookes Hospital <i>Orthopaedic Walk for charity</i>	
Thursday 26th	Woodditton, <i>Three Blackbirds</i> Dullingham, <i>Boot</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Friday 27th to Sunday 29th	Hürth, Germany <i>Twining event organised by Thetford and Hürth</i>	



*"Good company, good exercise, no charge"*

### JULY

Thursday 3rd	Hadstock, <i>King's Head</i> Linton, <i>Dog &amp; Duck</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Thursday 10th	Burwell, <i>Five Bells</i> Swaffham Prior, <i>Red Lion</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th	Ely Folk Festival	
Thursday 17th	Cheveley, <i>Red Lion</i> Lidgate, <i>Star</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Saturday 19th	Weeting Steam Fair	afternoon
Thursday 24th	Kirtling, <i>Red Lion</i> Cowlinge, <i>Three Tuns</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm
Thursday 31st	Babraham, <i>George</i> Hildersham, <i>Pear Tree</i>	7:45 pm 8:45 pm

### AUGUST

Monday 25th Annual tour of Southwold

While we make every effort to stick to the programme, circumstances beyond our control may force changes to it. If you want to check, do please ring Nick Kerry on 01638 742116, or check the DDMM web site [www.ddmm.freereserve.co.uk](http://www.ddmm.freereserve.co.uk).