

## Tell me about the dances you do

Devil's Dyke Morris Men mainly perform dances which were first recorded 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', that 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, Martin Tooley, on 01223 514169.

[www.devilsdykemm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemm.org.uk)

Photograph: Wandlebury, May Day 2003.

All content © DDMM 2004.

## 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 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.

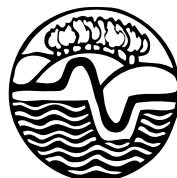
### Would you like to be a Morris Man?

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 Martin Tooley on 01223 514169. You could also visit our web-site:

[www.devilsdykemm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemm.org.uk)



# The Devil's Dyke Morris Men



Programme  
2004

## 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 Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

## What's the history of the Morris?

Morris dancing certainly goes back to late mediaeval times—it is first mentioned in 1458. We don't know what the name means, nor do we understand how or where it started. Many early records relate to the royal court and urban contexts. Out in the country, the Church supported it for many years, but it fell out of favour with the bishops after the Reformation. It only re-established itself in the 18th century, and then mostly in rural areas. However, by the end of the 19th century the Morris had become rather unfashionable, and almost died out completely. By good fortune, on Boxing Day 1899 the folk song and dance collector Cecil Sharp happened to see the Morris being performed and he started a revival, now in its second century.

[www.devilsdykemm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemm.org.uk)

## Where can we watch you?

### APRIL

Saturday 3rd	Ely, Eel Day	11:00 am
Monday 12th	Thaxted, Bullring	10:30 am

(DDMM are guests of Thaxted Morris Men)

### MAY

Saturday 1st	Wandlebury	5.20 am
Monday 3rd	Reach Fair	1.00 pm onwards
Thursday 6th	Withersfield, <i>White Horse</i>	7:30 pm
	Great Wrating, <i>Red Lion</i>	8:30 pm
Thursday 13th	Dullingham, <i>Boot</i>	7:30 pm
	Woodditton, <i>Three Blackbirds</i>	8:30 pm
Friday 21st	Burrough Green, <i>Bull</i>	7:30 pm
	Carlton, War Memorial	8:10 pm
	West Wrating, <i>Chestnut Tree</i>	8:30 pm
Thursday 27th	Ely, <i>Fountain</i>	7:30 pm
	Little Downham, <i>Plough</i>	8:30 pm

### JUNE

Friday 4th	Newmarket, Palace House	6:30 pm
------------	-------------------------	---------

(Event for Newmarket Twinning Association)

	Great Wilbraham, <i>Carpenter's Arms</i>	8:45 pm
Saturday 5th	Thetford International Carnival	Afternoon
Sunday 6th	Cambridgeshire County Show Wimpole Hall	Afternoon
Thursday 10th	Steeple Morden, <i>Waggon and Horses</i>	8:15 pm
	Abington Piggotts, <i>Pig and Abbot</i>	9:15 pm

(DDMM are guests of Letchworth Morris Men)

Thursday 17th	Cheveley, <i>Red Lion</i>	7:45 pm
	Lidgate, <i>Star</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 24th	Chippenham, <i>Tharp Arms</i>	7:45 pm
	Snailwell, <i>George &amp; Dragon</i>	8:45 pm

(with special guests Hageneth Morris Men)

### JULY

Thursday 1st	Cowlinge, <i>Three Tuns</i>	7:45 pm
	Kirtling, <i>Red Lion</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 8th	Reach, <i>Dyke's End</i>	7:45 pm
	Exning, <i>White Horse</i>	8:45 pm
Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th	Ely Folk Festival	
Thursday 15th	Hadstock, <i>King's Head</i>	7:45 pm
	Linton, <i>Dog &amp; Duck</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 22nd	Newton, <i>Queen's Head</i>	7:45 pm
	Harlton, <i>Hare &amp; Hounds</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 29th	Pampisford, <i>Chequers</i>	7:45 pm
	Hildersham, <i>Pear Tree</i>	8:45 pm

### AUGUST

Monday 30th Annual tour of Southwold

We make every effort to stick to the programme, but circumstances may force changes to it. If you want to check, do please ring Martin Tooley on 01223 514169, or check our web site

[www.devilsdykemm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemm.org.uk).

This year, we are supporting **Emmaus Cambridge**, a charity dedicated to the principle of 'Helping Homeless People Help Themselves' ([www.emmaus.org.uk](http://www.emmaus.org.uk)). Please assist us with your contributions.