

## 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 describes dances with a formal or ritual function, which were traditionally performed 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 villages in which they were collected. 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.devilsdykemmm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemmm.org.uk)

Photograph: Kempen, Germany, July 2004.

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## 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 visit many lovely spots at the best time of the year, and enjoy 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 in the Scout Hall, High Street Bottisham, 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.devilsdykemmm.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykemmm.org.uk)



# The Devil's Dyke Morris Men



Programme 2005

## 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.devilsdykem.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykem.org.uk)

## Where can we watch you?

### MARCH

Sunday 20th	Thriplow Daffodil W/E	12:30 pm
Monday 28th	Thaxted, Bullring	10:30 am

(DDMM are guests of Thaxted Morris Men)

### MAY

Sunday 1st	Wandlebury	5.20 am
	Bury St Edmunds	(afternoon)
Monday 3rd	Reach Fair	1.00 pm onwards
Friday 6th	West Wrattling, <i>Chestnut Tree</i>	7:30 pm
	Burrough Green, <i>Bull</i>	8:30 pm
Thursday 12th	Newton, <i>Queen's Head</i>	7:30 pm
	Harlton, <i>Hare &amp; Hounds</i>	8:30 pm
Sunday 15th	Whaddon, Whitsun celebration	10:30 am
Thursday 19th	Ely, <i>Fountain</i>	7:30 pm
	Little Downham, <i>Plough</i>	8:30 pm
Thursday 26th	Reach, <i>Dyke's End</i>	7:30 pm
	Exning, <i>Wheatsheaf</i>	8:30 pm

### JUNE

Thursday 2nd	Quy, <i>White Swan</i>	7:45 pm
	Great Wilbraham, <i>Carpenter's Arms</i>	8:45 pm
Sunday 5th	Cambridgeshire County Show Wimpole Hall	2:00–4:30 pm
Thursday 9th	Woodditton, <i>Three Blackbirds</i>	7:45 pm
	Dullingham, <i>Boot</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 16th	Dalham, <i>Affleck Arms</i>	7:45 pm
	Lidgate, <i>Star</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 23rd	Chrishall, <i>Red Cow</i>	8:15 pm
	Great Chishill, <i>Pheasant</i>	9:15 pm

(DDMM are guests of Standon Morris Men)

Thursday 30th	Pampisford, <i>Chequers</i>	7:45 pm
	Hadstock, <i>King's Head</i>	8:45 pm

### JULY

Thursday 7th	Cowlinge, <i>Three Tuns</i>	7:45 pm
	Kirtling, <i>Red Lion</i>	8:45 pm
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th	Ely Folk Festival	
Thursday 14th	Chippenham, <i>Tharp Arms</i>	7:45 pm
	Snailwell, <i>George &amp; Dragon</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 21st	Withersfield, <i>White Horse</i>	7:45 pm
	Great Wrattling, <i>Red Lion</i>	8:45 pm
Thursday 28th	Linton, <i>Dog &amp; Duck</i>	7:45 pm
	Hildersham, <i>Pear Tree</i>	8:45 pm

### AUGUST

Monday 29th	Annual tour of Southwold	
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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.devilsdykem.org.uk](http://www.devilsdykem.org.uk)

### This year, we are supporting Cambridge Dial-a-Ride



Cambridge Dial-a-Ride provides a community transport service in the City of Cambridge and its surrounding villages for persons who have special need for such facilities because they are elderly, sick, disabled, poor, or living in isolated areas, where there is no adequate public transport facility.

Cambridge Dial-a-Ride can be contacted by telephone on 01223-506335 or by fax on 01223-506334.