

## 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)

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The badge shown is the original design for DDMM drawn by Ann Roberts back in 1981, and we acknowledge her work with thanks.

## Why dance the Morris?

Primarily 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 members. 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!

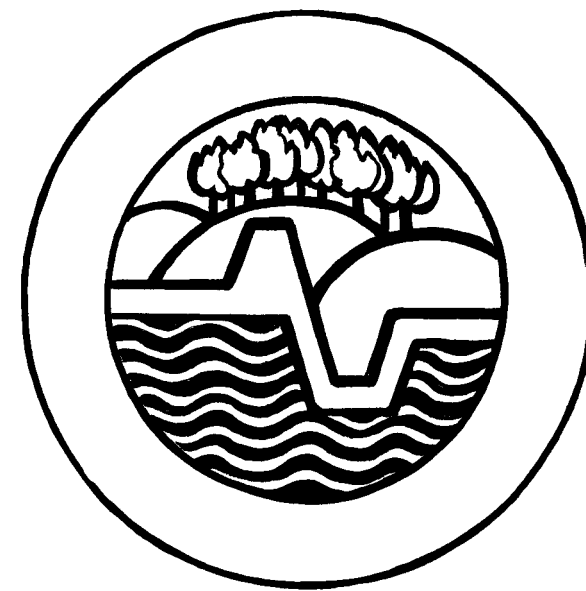
If you are interested please talk to one of the men, or ring Martin Tooley on 01223 514169. You could also visit our web-site:

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



1981-2006

# The Devil's Dyke Morris Men



Programme 2006

25th Anniversary

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

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. The Devil's Dyke Morris Men have been entertaining people in and around the Newmarket and Cambridge area for many years.

This year we are celebrating the side's twenty-fifth anniversary. We are proud of our continuing tradition, and we are marking the year with a number of events. When you come to see us dance, you may find us hosting one of our neighbouring sides who will be joining us periodically in our celebrations.

## 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 performances at the royal court and in major towns. 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 the revival, now in its second century.

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## Where can we watch you?

### MARCH

Sunday 26th Thriplow Daffodil W/E 12:30 pm

### MAY

Monday 1st Wandlebury 5.20 am  
Commercial End 11:15 am  
Reach Fair 1.00 pm onwards  
Thursday 4th Ely, outside the Maltings 7:30 pm  
Ely, *Fountain* 8:30 pm  
Thursday 11th Ousden, *Fox* 7:30 pm  
Dalham, *Affleck Arms* 8:30 pm  
Thursday 18th Wood Ditton,  
*Three Blackbirds* 7:30 pm  
Dullingham, *Boot* 8:30 pm  
Friday 26th Newton, *Queen's Head* 7:30 pm  
Harlton, *Hare & Hounds* 8:30 pm

### JUNE

Thursday 1st Little Wilbraham,  
*Hole in the Wall* 7:45 pm  
Great Wilbraham,  
*Carpenter's Arms* 8:45 pm  
Sunday 4th Whaddon,  
Whitsun Celebration 10:30 am  
Cambridgeshire County Show  
Wimpole Hall 2:00–4:30 pm  
Thursday 8th Lidgate, *Star* 7:45 pm  
Cowlinge, *Three Tuns* 8:45 pm  
Thursday 15th Reach, *Dyke's End* 7:45 pm  
Burwell, *Five Bells* 8:45 pm  
Thursday 22nd Burrough Green, *Bull* 7:45 pm  
Carlton, War Memorial 8:20 pm  
West Wrattling,  
*Chestnut Tree* 9:00 pm  
Thursday 29th Babraham, *George* 7:45 pm  
Pampisford, *Chequers* 8:45 pm

### JULY

Saturday 1st Ickleton, Church Fete 2 pm on  
Thursday 6th Chippenham, *Tharp Arms* 7:45 pm  
Snailwell,  
*George & Dragon* 8:45 pm  
Thursday 13th Linton, *Dog & Duck* 7:45 pm  
Ashdon, *Rose & Crown* 8:45 pm  
Thursday 20th Withersfield, *White Horse* 7:45 pm  
Great Wrattling, *Red Lion* 8:45 pm  
Thursday 27th Great Abington,  
*Three Tuns* 7:45 pm  
Hildersham, *Pear Tree* 8:45 pm

### AUGUST

Monday 27th 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.

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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.