

Who are the Devil's Dyke Morris Men?

We have been entertaining people in and around the Newmarket and Cambridge area since 1981. The side takes its name from the Devil's Dyke, a large earthwork that stretches over seven miles from Woodditton to Reach. It was built in the Dark Ages, during the 6th or 7th century, to keep out marauding Mercians.

We present our dances in public during the spring and summer as an affirmation of the English tradition of music and dance which we hope you too will value and enjoy.

Tell me about the dances you do!

The Devil's Dyke Morris Men mainly perform dances that were first recorded in the Cotswold area. Cotswold Morris is characterised by a mixture of dances with either handkerchiefs or sticks. Dance styles are referred to by the names of the villages in which they were collected, and so you may hear us announce a dance 'from Fieldtown' or 'in the style of Bledington'.

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 as distinct as possible.

Could you dance at my event?

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 our Bagman, Guy Jarvis, on 07912 180350, or send an email to bagman@devilsdykemm.org.uk.



At the Hare & Hounds, Harlton, 19 June 2025



Thriplow Daffodil Weekend, 22 March 2026

Have a go at the Morris!

Devil's Dyke Morris Men practise in Bottisham on Thursday evenings from the autumn until the end of April. We run special sessions at the beginning of the practice season so you can discover for yourself the great secret of how easy Morris dancing really is. By spring you will also have learned enough dances to be able to take part in our public performances.

We are running two 'have-a-go' sessions on Thursdays, at The Bell Bottisham on 24th September 2026, and then on 1st October at 8 pm at the Bottisham Scout Centre, on the south-western side of the High Street, CB25 9BB – in other words, on the left just 350 yards from the A1303. You will be made very welcome.

It's a good idea to wear trainers with good support for your feet and fairly springy soles. If you've got no large white handkerchiefs, we can lend you some. Around 9:40 pm, we repair to the *White Swan* in Quy for a much-needed drink. Your first one is on us!

If you would like to have a chat about this or get a lift to a session, phone Guy Jarvis on 07912 180350. You can also visit our web site: www.devilsdykemm.org.uk

'Have a go' sessions coming up in September and October 2026!

Please see above and our web site for more information.

IN MEMORIAM
NORMAN NOBLE
1947–2025



DEVIL'S DYKE
MORRIS MEN
2026

What's the history of the Morris?

Morris dancing certainly goes back to late mediaeval times—the word 'Morris' first appears in May 1448. We do not 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 following the Reformation, and only re-established itself in the 18th century, mostly in rural areas. By the end of the 19th century, the Morris had become unfashionable, and combining that with the movement of so many people from the country to the towns, it almost died out. Cecil Sharp saw the Morris on Boxing Day 1899, and in 1905 assisted Mary Neal in beginning the present revival.

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 part of our culture. The Morris has survived for more than five hundred years, and we hope to pass it on to future generations.



DDMM at the Chequers at Barley, 10 July 2025

Design: Nigel Strudwick, © DDMM 2026

Photos © Steve King, Nigel Strudwick, Ian Trouse



Even the best plans go wrong!

Please check our web site (or Facebook feed)
which will show you any updates

www.devilsdykemm.org.uk

MARCH

Sunday 22nd Thriplow, Daffodil Weekend 12 noon

MAY

Friday 1st Dawn at Wandlebury 5:20 am

Monday 4th Commercial End,
The Royal Oak 11:00 am

Reach Fair 1:00 pm

Thursday 7th Woodditton,
The Three Blackbirds 7:30 pm

Thursday 14th Chippenham, *The Tharp Arms* 7:45 pm

Thursday 21st Babraham, *The George* 7:45 pm

Whittlesford, *The Tickell Arms* 8:45 pm

Sunday 24th Whaddon Whitsun
Celebrations 10:15 am

Thursday 28th Bottisham, *The Bell* 7:45 pm

JUNE

Thursday 4th Carlton, The War Memorial 7:45 pm

West Wratting,
The Chestnut Tree 8:45 pm

Thursday 11th Great Abington,
The Three Tuns 7:45 pm

Linton, *The Dog and Duck* 8:45 pm

12–14th Tour of the Yorkshire Dales, courtesy of
White Rose Morris Men (Huddersfield)

Thursday 18th Little Shelford, *The Side Quest* 7:45 pm

Newton, *The Queen's Head* 8:45 pm

Thursday 25th Duxford, *The Plough* 7:45 pm

Great Chesterford,
The Crown and Thistle 8:45 pm

JULY

Thursday 2nd Therfield,
The Fox and Duck 8:00 pm

Joint show with Letchworth Morris

Saturday 4th Sheringham, Potty Festival All day

Thursday 9th Great Chishill, *The Pheasant* 7:45 pm

Thursday 16th Kirtling, *The Red Lion* 7:45 pm

Thursday 23rd Ely, *The Fountain* 7:45 pm

Ely, *The Prince Albert* 8:45 pm

Thursday 30th Reach, *The Dyke's End* 7:45 pm

Stow cum Quy,
The White Swan 8:45 pm

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 24th Bottisham, *The Bell* 7:45 pm

*This is our first 'Have a Go' session of 2026 –
come along and have a go at the Morris!*

Saturday 26th Great Chesterford Steam Up Noon

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st Bottisham Scout Centre
'Have a Go' evening 8:00 pm

Come along and have a go at the Morris!

*Postcode information for all these venues
is available via the events calendar at*

www.devilsdykemm.org.uk

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR
45TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026
COME ALONG AND
CELEBRATE WITH US!



In 2026 the charity we will be supporting primarily is

Prostate Cancer UK

1 in 8 men will contract prostate cancer in this country. Prostate Cancer UK seeks to give every man the power to navigate the condition by aiding understanding, assisting in making treatment choices, and helping with access to relevant expertise. For more information see



<https://prostatecanceruk.org/>

Thanks to the generosity of people like you who watch our performances and contribute to our collections, in 2025 we made a donation of £1,534 to Prostate Cancer UK. Thank you for your support.