

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The present Dartington Morris Men side was formed in 1968. In the early days the side practised in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century "Pillar Studio" at Dartington Hall near Totnes, Devon. Whilst practising and contemplating a name for the side, Leonard Elmhirst, a founder of the Dartington Hall Trust, informed the men that he had once danced the Morris. He suggested that the side call themselves The Dartington Morris Men and use the Dartington crest of a white hart on a red rose, the crest of Richard II and John Holland (who was given the manor of Dartington for services rendered in battle.)

Two previous Dartington Morris sides are known to have danced in the Totnes area; one at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the other in the 1930s. One of these sides apparently danced in bare feet.

The side consists of male dancers, male and female musicians, our horse "Champernowne", a pair of Fools and a number of singers and friends. We perform Cotswold dances from a number of traditions and we are unique in performing reconstructed dances from the lost Filkins tradition.

## THE DANCES

The English Morris is performed traditionally by men and women and may have its origin in pagan fertility rites, although the present form of dance is more recent. The name "Morris" may be derived from "Moorish", in reference to a dance style based on the Spanish "Moros y Cristianos" ("Moors and Christians"). This may have been first introduced to England through the household of John of Gaunt and Constance of Castile, following John of Gaunt's active involvement in the politics of Northern Spain during the Hundred Years War. Related dancing spread to other European countries too, but it was in England that the dance form thrived. Different styles evolved around the country, especially after John of Gaunt's direct descendant, Henry VII, came to the throne and Morris Dancing and other related seasonal festive activities took firm root in English culture.

Morris dancing in England was in decline when in 1899 Cecil Sharp, a professional musician and teacher, became interested in Folk Music. Whilst spending Christmas at Headington in Oxfordshire, he encountered the Headington Quarry Morris Men dancing "out of season to earn an honest penny". As a consequence of this experience, he spent the remainder of his life collecting and recording traditional dances and music.

## THE MORRIS RING [www.themorrisring.org](http://www.themorrisring.org)

The Morris Ring is the national association of Morris clubs with male dancers and is concerned with maintaining the traditions and performance of the Morris in its various forms, including Mummer's plays. Dartington MM was admitted to membership of the Morris Ring in 1978.



For further information about

## Dartington Morris Men

including bookings and any other enquiries,

contact the Bagman

email: [bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](mailto:bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

or visit our website:

[dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](http://dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

or follow us on Facebook & Twitter:

[fb.com/dartingtonmorris](https://fb.com/dartingtonmorris) @DartingtonMM

**Bagman: Roy Hartwell**

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**Squire: Iain Davison**

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**Foreman: Stephen Holley**

[foreman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](mailto:foreman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

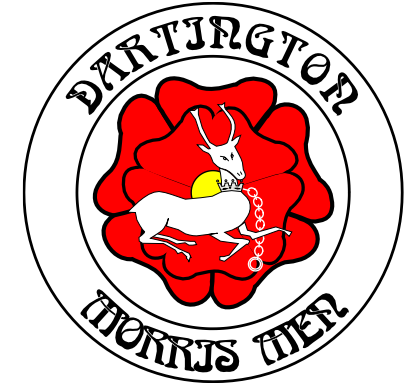
## Photograph collection

Copies of your photographs of the Dartington Morris Men in action would be very much appreciated. Please email them to [Tim Sercombe: photos@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](mailto:Tim.Sercombe@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

We practise on Friday evenings from October to April at Dartington Primary School near Totnes, where a warm welcome awaits any new member. We also arrange special workshops for new members that want to join us during the summer months. For more info, please contact us using the details above.

# Dartington Morris Men



## Programme 2015



[dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](http://dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

# Where you can see Dartington Morris Men in 2015

For our regular Friday evenings out, our start time is 8.00pm unless stated otherwise.

## April

Fri 17- Sun 19 Apr King John Morris 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, Hampshire

Sat 25 Apr Dartington: Cott Inn Beer Festival 3:00pm

## May

Fri 1 May May morning Totnes castle; *then 5:30 am 10am: walking tour of Totnes*

Fri 8 May Holne: Church House Inn

Fri 15 May Littlehempston: Tally Ho! Inn

Fri 22 May Stokeinteignhead: Church House Inn

Sat 30 May Dawlish Arts Festival 2:30; 3:30pm

## June

Fri 5 Jun Dartmouth: town centre

Fri 12 Jun Dornafeld: campsite & (9pm) Abbotskerswell: Court Farm Inn

Sat 20 Jun Par, Cornwall: Solstice Festival

Sat 27 Jun Ermington Summer Fair 2:00pm

## July

Fri 3 Jul Kingston: Dolphin Inn

Sat 11 Jul Totnes: town centre 10:00am

Fri 17 Jul Ashprington: Durant Arms

Fri 24 Jul Brixham: harbourside

Fri 31 Jul Torcross: Start Bay Inn & (9pm) Frogmore: Globe Inn

## August

Sat 1 Aug Seale-Hayne, Newton Abbot 3:00pm

Sun 2 Aug Sidmouth Folk Festival: Esplanade 11:00 am

Thu 6 Aug Salcombe Regatta 7:30pm

Sun 16 Aug Frogmore Regatta 2:00pm

Fri 21 Aug Noss Mayo: Ship Inn with guests Plymouth Morris Men

Fri 28 Aug Torquay: harbourside

## September

Fri 4 to Sun 6 Sep Anker Morris Ring Meeting, Nuneaton, North Warwickshire

Sun 13 Sep Totnes JMO Day of Dance, with invited local Morris sides 11am-3pm

Fri 18 Sep Dartington: Cott Inn

Sat 26 Sep Dartmouth: Beer Festival, Old Market 8:00pm

Sun 27 Sep Saltram House: Michaelmas

### Programme alterations

Dancing usually takes place outdoors and may be affected by the weather. We make every effort to dance as advertised, but reserve the right to alter times, dates, venues of performances if necessary. Please check our website or contact the Bagman for the latest information.

### A JOB LOT! AUDIO CD ONLY £5.00

If you would like to hear more of our music and song, why not support us by buying a copy of our latest audio CD? You can buy it through our website (for £5.99 inc p&p), or directly when you see us out and about performing.

