

A BRIEF HISTORY

The present Dartington Morris Men side was formed in 1968. In the early days the side practised in the 13th 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 19th 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 "Champerowne", a pair of Fools. We perform Cotswold dances from a number of traditions and we are unique in performing reconstructed dances from the lost Filkins tradition.

THE FILKINS DANCES

We are proud performers of dances from the "Filkins" tradition, reconstructed from scant evidence by Christopher Farr, a respected and well-known member of our side. Filkins is a village in Oxfordshire; it is believed that Morris was danced there in the 19th century (more fully described on our website). There are currently five dances and a jig, which we alone perform.

MORRIS 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. For more detailed history and fascinating stories, please visit our website.

THE MORRIS RING 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

or visit our website:

dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

or follow us on Facebook & Twitter:

fb.com/dartingtonmorris @DartingtonMM

Bagman: Roy Hartwell

01548 831159 : bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

Squire: Martin Jones

squire@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

Foreman: Stephen Holley

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 dancer. 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 2016



dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

Where to see Dartington Morris Men in 2016

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

April	
Fri 15- Sun 17 Apr	King John Morris weekend, Hampshire
May	
Sun 1 May 5:30 am	Totnes castle: May Day dancing at dawn
Fri 6 May	Littlehempston: The Tally Ho
Fri 13 May	Stokeinteignhead: Church House Inn
Sat 21 May 3:00pm	Dartington: Cott Inn Beer Festival
Fri 27 May	Totnes: Party in the Town
June	
Fri 3 Jun	Dartmouth: town centre
Fri 10 Jun	Bishopsteignton: Red Rock Brewery with guests Raddon Hill
Fri 17 Jun	South Brent: Packhorse Inn
Sat 25 Jun 2:00pm	Ermington Summer Fete

July	
Fri 1 Jul	Aveton Gifford: Fisherman's Rest with guests Plymouth MM and Harberton Navy
Sat 9 Jul 11:00am	Totnes: town centre, various locations
Fri 15 - Sun 17 Jul	Filkins, Oxfordshire; village Open Day
Fri 22 Jul	Brixham: harbourside and Old Coaching House
Sun 31 Jul 11:00am	Sidmouth Folk Festival
August	
Thu 4 Aug 8:00pm	Salcombe Town Regatta
Sun 14 Aug 2:00pm	Frogmore Regatta (Frogmore, near Kingsbridge)
Wed 17 Aug 8:00pm	Cornwood Inn with Dartmoor Border Morris
Fri 26 Aug	Torquay: harbourside; and Crown & Sceptre, St Marychurch

September	
Fri 2 Sep	Ashprington: Durant Arms Beer Festival
Sat 10 Sep 11am-3pm	Totnes JMO Local Day of Dance, with invited local Morris sides
Fri 16 Sep	Kingston: The Dolphin Inn
Sun 25 Sep	Saltram House, Plymouth: Michaelmas Apple & Cider Day

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 (£6.50 inc p&p), or directly (for £5.00) when you see us out and about performing.

