

## 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 "Champerowne", a pair of Fools. We perform Cotswold dances from a number of traditions and we are unique in performing dances from the Filkins tradition.

## THE FILKINS DANCES

We are proud performers of dances from the lost "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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

01548 831159 : [bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk](mailto:bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk)

**Squire: Martin Jones**

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**Foreman: Stephen Holley**

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

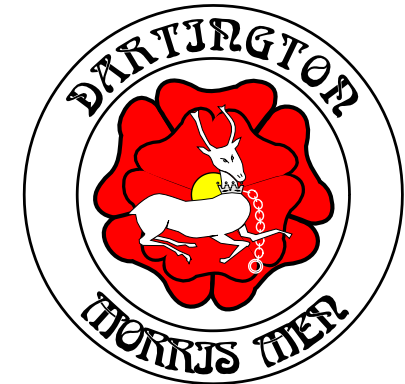
## Photograph collection

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 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 2017



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

# Where to see Dartington Morris Men in 2017

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 21- Sun 23 Apr	King John Morris weekend, Hampshire
Fri 28 Apr 7:30pm	Party in the Town, Totnes
May	
Mon 1 May 5:30 am	Totnes castle: May Day dancing at dawn
Fri 5 May	The Tally Ho, Littlehempston
Fri 12 May	Monk's Retreat, Broadhempston
Fri 19 May	Durant Arms, Ashprington
Fri 26 May	Cott Inn, Dartington
June	
Fri 2 Jun	Dolphin Inn, Kingston
Fri 9 Jun	South Pool, Millbrook Inn
Sat 17 Jun 11am-4pm	Teignmouth Folk Festival
Sat 24 Jun 2pm & 4pm	Harlyn Bay, near Padstow

July	
Sat 1 Jul 2:00pm	Loddiswell Fete
Fri 7 Jul	Torcross and then to Stokenham, Church House Inn
Sat 15 Jul 11:00am	Totnes Tour with guests Charlbury Finstock Morris
Fri 21 Jul	Brixham Harbourside, then to the Old Coaching House
Sun 23 Jul 4:30pm	Midsummer Dreams Festival Dartington Hall
Fri 28 Jul	Dartmouth town pub tour
August	
Sat 5 Aug	Sidmouth Folk Festival
Thu 10 Aug 7:30pm	Salcombe Town Regatta
Sat 19 Aug	Dartmouth Royal Regatta
Fri 25 Aug	Torquay harbourside; then Crown & Sceptre, St Marychurch

September	
Sun 3 Sep 11am-3pm	Totnes JMO Local Day of Dance, with invited local Morris sides
8-10 Sep	Wessex Morris weekend
Fri 15 Sep	Church House Inn, Harberton
Sun 24 Sep 1:00pm	Saltram House, Plymouth: Michaelmas Apple & Cider Day
Fri 29 Sep	AGM

## 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.

