

## A Brief History

The present Dartington Morris 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 team 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.

In 2021 we removed the gender restriction for dancers and are now a mixed gender dance side. The side consists of dancers, musicians, our horse “Champernowne” and a Fool. We perform Cotswold dances in many styles (called “traditions”) and we are unique in performing dances from the Filkins tradition. We also include a North Skelton Longsword dance in our repertoire.

## 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 and it is believed that Morris was danced there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see our website for more details).

## Morris Dancing

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

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

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

We welcome anyone that wants to learn Cotswold Morris dancing. We practise on Friday evenings, 8pm-10pm, from October to April at Dartington Primary School near Totnes. We also arrange summer workshops for beginners. For more information, please contact us using the details below.

Squire: Joe Vincent  
Bagman: Martin Jones  
Foreman: Stephen Holley  
Treasurer: Robin Wells

## For further info about Dartington Morris

including bookings, enquiries, or joining us

email the Bagman:

[bag@dartingtonmorris.uk](mailto:bag@dartingtonmorris.uk)

Website: [dartingtonmorris.uk](http://dartingtonmorris.uk)

Facebook: [fb.com/dartingtonmorris](https://www.facebook.com/dartingtonmorris)

Twitter: [@DartingtonMM](https://twitter.com/DartingtonMM)

Instagram: [@dartingtonmorrismen](https://www.instagram.com/dartingtonmorrismen)

# Dartington Morris Programme Summer 2023



# Where to see Dartington Morris in Summer 2023

Dancing usually takes place outdoors but can 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 email [bag@dartingtonmorris.uk](mailto:bag@dartingtonmorris.uk) for the latest information.

## MAY

### Monday 1 May (May Day)

Totnes castle: dancing at dawn 5:30am

### Friday 5 May

The Tally Ho!, Littlehempston 8:00pm

### Monday 8 May

Coronation event, Kingswear 1:00pm

### Friday 12 May

Crooked Spire, Ermington 8:00pm

### Friday 19 May

Old Exeter Inn, Ashburton 8:00pm

### Friday 26 May

Star Inn, Liverton 8:00pm

## JUNE

### Friday 2 June

Dolphin Inn, Newton Ferrers 8:00pm

### Friday 9 June

Rock Inn, Haytor Vale, with Black Bess Border Morris 8:00pm

### Friday 16 June

Church House Inn, Stoke-in-teignhead, with Beltane Border 8:00pm

### Saturday 24 June

Teignmouth Folk Festival 10:00am

### Friday 30 June

Dartmouth town tour 8:00pm

## JULY

### Saturday 8 July

Brutus procession & dancing with guests Charlbury Finstock Morris 10:30am

### Friday 14 July

Church House Inn, Holne, with guests Dartmoor Border Morris 8:00pm

### Friday 21 July

The Linny, Coffinswell 8:00pm

### Saturday 29 July

Wedding, Slapton (private event) 3:00pm

## AUGUST

### Thursday 3 August

Salcombe Town Regatta 7:30pm

### Saturday 5 August

Sidmouth Folk Festival 11:00am

### Friday 11 August

Cott Inn, Dartington 8:00pm

### Saturday 19 August

Dartmouth Royal Regatta Family Fun Day 1:00pm

### Friday 25 August

Start Bay Inn, Torcross 8:00pm

## SEPTEMBER

### Saturday 2 September

Ashprington: Durant Arms Beer Festival 7:00pm

### Friday 8 September

Dolphin Inn, Kingston 8:00pm

### Saturday 16 September

Dartington Morris Day of Dance, Totnes, with local guest sides 11:00am

### Sunday 24 September

Stones tour with Sarum Morris, at Stonehenge & Avebury 10:00am  
2:30pm