

So - What is all this Morris Dancing?

Recent research and interpretation* has indicated that morris dancing as it is recognised now is about 300 years old. From the early 1400s - 1700 the word morris was in general use but little is known about the actual performance and style of dance. The earliest illustration of a recognisable morris dancer is of Will Kemp in 1600, but prior to this Great Civic processions took place in London between 1521 and 1529 and morris men took part, using real swords instead of sticks! Splendid carved wooden figures of morris dancers are to be found in the Munich City Museum and date from 1480, so it may be that the dance was not purely

English. Far from being a Pagan activity, parish records between 1507 and 1629 show that the Church supported morris and paid for the dancers' costumes. As to the word morris, this almost certainly comes from the Spanish and Portuguese word Morisco, meaning traditional. (* *History and the Morris Dance*, John Cutting 2005)

In 1934, the Morris Ring was formed as an organisation to foster contact between Morris sides, and encourage the formation of new ones. Today, thriving sides of Morris dancers can be found throughout this country and abroad.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

We recommence our practice sessions in September each year and both experienced dancers and complete beginners would be very welcome to join us. If you are interested, please fill in your name and address below and return the slip to our bagman.



TO:
 Mike Painter, Bagman,
 102 Gras Lawn, Exeter, EX2 4ST
 Tel 01392 426743
 or Email: mike@painter53.freemove.co.uk

Please send me details of your 2008 / 09 Practice Season.

Your Name :

Your Address:

.....

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Your Telephone Number:

Your E-mail address:



Relax with an Otter

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EXETER MORRIS ALMANAC



WORLD "MORRIS DANCING ON ICE" RECORD ATTEMPT THWARTED

Failure Blamed on Global Warming

A recent attempt to break the world record for Morris Dancing on Ice has ended in disaster. Exeter Morris Squire Rod Horder, pictured right, blamed global warming and a lack of planning. "We chose to dance off the north coast of Denmark," he explained, "but none of the support team had advised me that the ice sheet had retreated from here at the end of the last Ice Age, approximately 10,000 years ago." "Imagine my surprise," he continued, "to find that my feet were becoming very wet indeed, and the water was rising quickly towards my..." (continued on page 6)



2008 Summer Programme



EXETER MORRIS MEN

Summer Programme 2008

“It’s a logistical masterpiece”, claims Bagman.

APRIL

Sat. 26th 1.15pm & 2.45pm Sampford Peverell Fete

MAY

Thurs. 1st 7.30pm Bridge Inn, Topsham

Fri. - Mon. 2nd- 5th Upton Folk Festival

Mon. 5th 12.30 & 2.00pm Powderham Castle

Thurs. 8th 7.30pm Wyndham Arms, Kentisbeare
8.30pm Blacksmith's Arms, Plymtree

Thurs. 15th 7.30pm Welcome Inn, Exeter
8.30pm The Prospect , The Quay, Exeter
Joint with Raddon Hill

Thurs. 22nd 8.00pm Seven Stars, South Tawton
9.00pm Tom Copley, Spreyton
Joint with Winkleigh

Fri. - Sun. 23rd - 25th Helier Morris Ale

Thurs. 29th 8.00pm Budleigh Salterton seafront
9.00pm The Feathers, Budleigh Salterton

JUNE

Thurs. 5th 8.00pm Nobody Inn, Doddiscombsleigh
9.00pm Manor Inn, Lower Ashton
Joint with Beltane at Manor Inn

Thurs. 12th 8.00pm The Luppitt Inn, Luppitt
9.00pm The Royal Oak, Dunkeswell
Joint with Taunton Deane

Sat. 14th 10.00am Exeter Craft Market
11.00am Princesshay Square, Exeter
12.00 noon Exeter Craft Market

Thurs. 19th 8.00pm Castle Inn, Bradninch,
9.00pm Butterleigh Inn., Butterleigh

Sun. 22nd Teignmouth Folk Festival

Thurs. 26th 8.00pm Sir Walter Raleigh, East Budleigh
9.00pm Kings Arms, Otterton

JULY

Tues. 1st 8.00pm Angel Hotel, Witheridge
9.00pm The Stag, Rackenford
Joint with Tarka at Rackenford

**Fri. 4th - Sun. 6th 10.30am Buxton Folk Festival
4.30pm on Sat.**

Thurs. 10th 8.00pm Royal Oak, Ideford
9.00pm Sandygate Inn, Kingsteignton

Thurs. 17th 8.00pm Somerton Arts Festival

Thurs. 24th 8.00pm The Square, Chagford
9.00pm Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton

Thurs. 31st 8.00pm Cliff Top Gardens, Beer
9.00pm Masons Arms, Branscombe

AUGUST

Sun. 3rd 10.30am Sea Front at Sidmouth
opposite the Marine

Thurs. 7th 8.00pm Sidmouth Sea front
opposite the Marine

Sun. 10th Dartmoor Folk Festival

Thurs. 14th 8.00pm London Inn, Shaldon
8.45pm Royal Standard, Shaldon
9.15pm Ferryboat Inn, Shaldon

Thurs. 21st 8.00pm The Quay, Topsham
8.45pm Globe Inn, Topsham
9.15pm Passage House Inn, Topsham

Fri 22nd - Sun 24th Saddleworth Rushcart

Thurs. 28th Aug 7.30pm Well House, Exeter
8.30pm City Gate, Exeter

SEPTEMBER

Thurs. 4th Sept 7.30pm Exeter Inn, Thorverton
8.30pm Lamb Inn, Sandford

Fri. 5th - Sun. 7th Dartington Ring Meeting

Sat. 27th Colyford Goose Fair

Exeter Morris

The Exeter Morris Men were formed in the middle of the last century (1951) and admitted to the Morris Ring of England two years later.

Each summer, the Exeter Morris Men dance in towns and villages throughout Devon and other parts of the country as guests of other Morris sides. We have performed at festivals in France, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands and the USA.

The side has a repertoire of about 70 dances, most of which were recorded at the start of the 20th century in the Cotswold region of England. From October to April we practise at the Memorial Hall, Ide on the outskirts of Exeter and new members are always welcome to join us!

Visit our website at:
www.exetermorris.co.uk

Please note that dancing takes place in the open and can be affected by the weather. Exeter Morris will make every effort to fulfil this programme, but reserve the right to cancel or alter the times and dates of performances.