

The History of Morris Dancing

There are many theories, but it is clear that it is an old English tradition. Villages in the Cotswolds and the Welsh Borders had sides (teams) of Morris Dancers, with each having its own style or tradition. The likely reasons for the dancing are linked to the Whitsun or May time celebrations, but maybe also a side would dance to raise some cash for a drink at the pub. Written references exist from the 15th century of Morris dancing in England and back to the 12th century of 'Morisca' dancing in the Spanish court. We also know that in 1494, Henry VIII was entertained by 6 dancers and a fool.



As the industrial revolution gradually reduced the rural population with a migration to the towns, it died out in the villages, but North West Morris evolved in the industrial towns, often dancing in clogs. Today Wickham Morris keep up the tradition, with dances from the villages of Adderbury, Bampton, Stanton Harcourt, Lichfield and the Welsh Borders, plus several dances we have created, thus continuing the evolution of the tradition.

Charity Collection

Wessex Heartbeat is a major regional charity which supports the work of the Wessex Cardiac Centre in Southampton General Hospital.

The charity raises monies to help ensure that the Cardiac Centre is able to provide the highest quality service and care to its patients and their relatives. Over £11 million has been raised by Wessex Heartbeat which has helped to make the Wessex Cardiac Centre one of the leading centres of excellence in the UK. The Centre treats over 20,000 patients every year, 1,000 of whom are children. They come from across central southern England, Devon, Cornwall and the Channel Islands. The impact of heart disease touches everyone.

See www.heartbeat.co.uk



Wickham Morris are sponsored by Ringwood Brewery

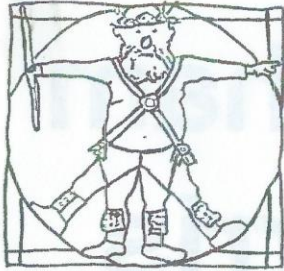
Wickham Morris



Winners of the prestigious
Chippenham Folk Festival
Stick and Bucket competition

World Tour 2007 Season

Please give generously to our
charity collection for
Wessex Heartbeat



For more information
and contacts, see:
www.wickham-morris.org.uk
or contact the Baggie:
Dennis Wheeler
baggie@wickham-morris.org.uk

All timings are approximate

Come and Join Us

Wickham Morris are always ready to dance with you, **just ask and we'll set up a dance you can join in.** We are delighted to have been joined by not only the able bodied, but also the blind, deaf, wheelchair bound, a person on crutches, another with one arm (who did zen clapping), some with learning difficulties, plus pre-school children up through primary school, cubs, scouts, brownies and guides, to senior citizens....

come and join us

We welcome new members. If you would like to give it a try, come and join our friendly group. We start practices in September and meet every Thursday. Come along for a free trial session, we'd love to see you. Just ask any member of the team or contact the Baggie. Since we kept count, we have raised over £19,000 for charity, so come and help raise more.

Wickham Morris

Monday 1 st May	✓ ✓	5.15 am 6.30 pm	Greet the dawn followed by tour Festival in Wickham Square
Thursday 3 rd May	✓	8 pm	Miners' Arms, Funtley
4 th to 7 th May			Upton on Severn Folk Festival
Thursday 10 th May	✓	8 pm	White Lion, Soberton
Thursday 17 th May	✓	8 pm	White Horse, Wallington
Thursday 24 th May	✓	8 pm	The Shoe Inn, Exton
25 th to 28 th May			Chippenham Folk Festival
Thursday 31 st May		8 pm	Dog and Crook, Brambridge
1 st to 4 th June			Tour of Brittany
Thursday 7 th June		8 pm	The Hampshire Bowman, Dundridge
Thursday 14 th June	✓ ✓	8 pm c 8:45	Hunters Inn, Swanmore Rising Sun, Swanmore
Thursday 21 st June		8 pm	Wheatsheaf, Shedfield
Thursday 28 th June	✓	8 pm	The Flower Pots Inn, Cheriton
Thursday 5 th July	✓	8 pm	The Victory, Hamble
Thursday 12 th July	✓ ✓	8 pm c 8:45	The New Inn, Swanmore Brickmakers, Swanmore
Saturday 14 th July		1.30pm	Lymington Quay with Basingclog
Thursday 19 th July	✓	8 pm	Brushmakers, Upham
Thursday 26 th July	✓	8 pm	Fox and Hounds, Denmead
Thursday 2 nd August	✓	8 pm	Kings Head, Wickham
Saturday 4 th August			Wickham Folk Festival
Saturday 13 th October	✓	Noon	Pumpkin festival, Royal Victoria country park
Saturday 1 st December			Mumming, Fareham town centre