

The History of Morris Dancing

Morris dancing is an old English tradition. There are few written references up until the end of the 19th century and we think that was partly because it was seen as a wild pagan thing. So most records show things like fines being imposed for creating a disturbance. But we do know that in 1494, Henry VIII was entertained by 6 dancers and a fool and the picture below was painted in 1725.



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.

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

ME Research UK is a charity with the principal aim of commissioning and funding scientific (biomedical) investigation into the causes, consequences and treatment of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (also known as ME/CFS).

ME is a serious and debilitating neurological illness. There is no known cure. It affects between 120,000 and 240,000 people in UK, including children. Some recover after a few years, many do not. 25% are severely affected, housebound or bed bound, some even tube fed, for years. The illness is not well understood nor, in many cases, properly recognised.

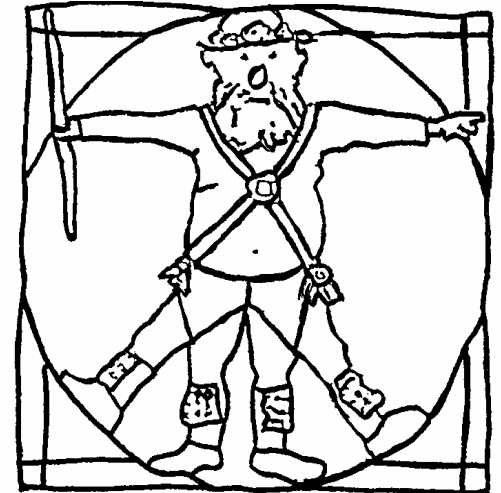
See www.mereseach.org.uk



Wickham Morris are sponsored by Ringwood Brewery

WICKHAM

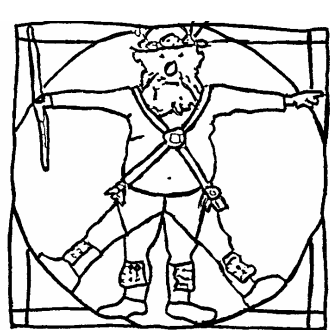
MORRIS



Winners of the prestigious
Chippenham Folk Festival
Stick and Bucket competition

World Tour 2008 Season

Please give generously to our
charity collection for
ME research



For more information, see:
www.wickham-morris.org.uk
 or contact the Baggie:
 Dennis Wheeler 01489 892911
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.... and they all enjoyed themselves

come and give it a try!

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 on 01489 892911. Since we kept count, we have raised over £23,000 for charity, so come and help raise more.

Wickham Morris

Thursday 1 st May	5.14 am 6.30 pm	Greet the dawn followed by tour Festival in Wickham Square
2 nd to 5 th May		Upton on Severn Folk Festival
Thursday 8 th May	8 pm	Miners' Arms, Funtley with Southern Lights
Thursday 15 th May	8 pm	White Lion, Soberton
Saturday 17 th May		Winchester MayFest
23 rd to 26 th May		Chippenham Folk Festival
Thursday 29 th May	8 pm	The Travellers' Rest, Newtown
Thursday 5 th June	8 pm c8.45	The Wheatsheaf, Braishfield The Newport, Braishfield
6 th to 8 th June		Wessex Folk Festival at Weymouth
Thursday 12 th June	8 pm	The Hampshire Bowman, Dundry with Southern Lights
Sunday 15 th June		Wimborne Folk Festival
Thursday 19 th June	8 pm c 8:45	The Ship, Langstone The Royal Oak, Langstone
Thursday 26 th June	8 pm	Wheatsheaf, Shedfield
Thursday 3 rd July	8 pm	The Victory, Hamble
Thursday 10 th July	8 pm c 8:45	Cob and Pen with Victory Morris Men White Horse, Wallington
Saturday 12 th July		Romsey Beggars Fair
Thursday 17 th July	7:15 pm c 8:45	The Hunters Inn with Swanmore Junior Morris The Rising Sun, Swanmore
Thursday 24 th July	8 pm	Brushmakers, Upham with King John's Morris Men
Thursday 31 st July	8 pm	Fox and Hounds, Denmead
Sunday 3 rd August		Stokes Bay Festival
Thursday 7 th August	8 pm	The Flower Pots Inn, Cheriton with Knockhundred Shuttles