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Your spare copies of photographs of the Dartington Morris Men in action would be very much appreciated for our scrapbook or website.

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

### PROPER JOB! CD AVAILABLE – SPECIAL OFFER £10

If you would like to hear more of our music and song, why not support us by buying a copy of our new audio CD? You can buy it online through our website, or when you see us out and about performing (at a discounted rate, if you're lucky!).



### JOIN US

The side practises most Fridays from mid-October to April at Dartington Primary School near Totnes, where a warm welcome awaits any new member.

### A BRIEF HISTORY

40 years ago, in the autumn of 1968, the Dartington Morris Men were formed. In these early days the side practised in the 13th C. "Pillar Studio" at Dartington Hall. 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. (In 1388 John Holland, half brother of Richard II, 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 about the turn of the century, the other in the 1930s. One of these sides apparently danced in bare feet.

### THE DANCES

The English Morris is performed traditionally by men 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", a reference to the fact that in the Early Mediaeval period royal, military and commercial travellers brought many ideas back with them from mainland Europe, in particular from the Arab Moors in Spain. Related dancing spread to other European countries too but it was in England that the dance form thrived with different styles evolving around the country.

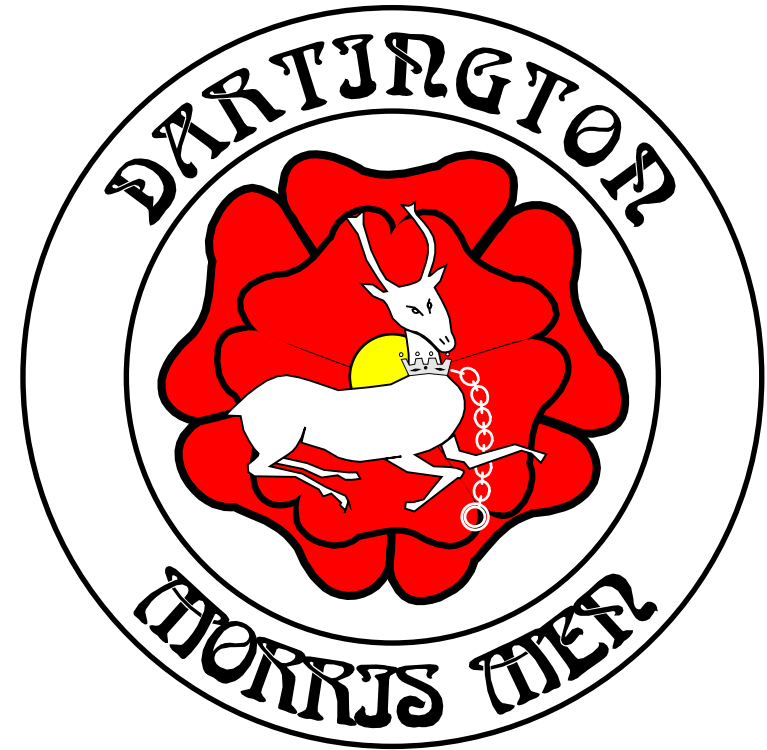
Morris dancing in England was in rapid decline when in 1899 Cecil Sharp, a professional musician and teacher, became interested in Folk Music. Whilst spending Christmas at Headington in Oxfordshire, he encountered the Headington Quarry Morris Men dancing "out of season to earn an honest penny". As a consequence of this experience, he spent the last twenty years of his life collecting and recording traditional dances and music.

### THE MORRIS RING

In 1978 Dartington were admitted to membership of the Morris Ring. The Morris Ring, founded in 1934, is an association of men's Morris clubs that maintains contact with member and associate clubs and is concerned with maintaining the traditions and performance of the Morris in its various forms, including Mummers' plays.

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# SUMMER PROGRAMME 2009



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

## Dartington Morris Men Summer Programme 2009

### April

Sat 17-Sun 19		King John weekend, Portsmouth
Thu 23 Apr	7.30pm	St George's Day celebration, Dartmouth
Thu 30 Apr	8.00pm	Tradesman's Arms, Scorton

### May

Fri 1 May	5.30am	Combestone Tor
Sat 2 May	4.00pm	Albert Inn, Totnes: Beer Festival
Mon 4 May		The Black Prince Flower Boat Procession, Millbrook (daytime tour)
Fri 8 May	8.00pm	Dart Music festival; George & Dragon Inn, Dartmouth
Fri 15 May	8.00pm	Pack Horse Inn, South Brent; with Dartmoor Border Morris
Mon 25 May	11.00am	East Devon Tour (daytime tour)
Fri 29 May	8.00pm	Mildmay Colours, Holbeton

### June

Fri 5 Jun	8.00pm	Dartmouth Inn, Totnes
Fri 12 Jun	8.00pm	Dolphin Inn, Newton Ferrers
Sat 20 Jun	2.00pm	Sherford Village Fete
Sun 21 Jun*	10.00am-4.00pm	Teignmouth Folk Festival
Fri 26 Jun	8.00pm	Monk's Retreat, Broadhempston; with Raddon Hill North-West Clog Morris

### July

Fri 3 Jul	8.00pm	Millbrook Inn, South Pool
Sat 11 Jul		Ugborough, then to Aveton Gifford
Wed 15 Jul	8.00pm	Ship Inn, Noss Mayo; with Plymouth Morris Men
Fri 17 Jul	8.00pm-9.00pm	New Inn, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, then to Rugglestone Inn, Widecombe

Fri 24 Jul	8.00pm	Green Dragon, Stoke Fleming
Fri 31 Jul	8.00pm-9.30pm	Start Bay Inn, Torcross, then to Queen's Arms, Slapton

### August

Sun 2 Aug*	12.00 midday	Sidmouth Folk Festival, on the promenade opposite the Bedford Hotel
Sat 8 & Sun 9	pm	Dartmoor Folk festival, South Zeal
Fri 14 Aug	8.00pm	Hope & Anchor Inn, Hope Cove
Fri 21 – Sun 23		Men of Wight Morris Ring Meeting, Isle of Wight
Fri 28 Aug	8.00pm	Church House Inn, Stoke Gabriel

### September

Fri 4 Sep	8.00pm	Wellington Inn, Ipplepen
Sun 6 Sep		Totnes Festival (TBC)
Fri 11 Sep	8.00pm	Dolphin Inn, Kingston
Fri 18 Sep	8.00pm	Old Church House Inn, Torbryan with Exeter Morris Men
Fri 25 Sep	8.00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Practice

### October

Fri 2 Oct	8.00pm	Practice
Fri 9 Oct	8.00pm	AGM

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\*The Dartington Young Morris Men will be in attendance on those dates marked with an asterisk. Venues are chosen carefully and it should be remembered that the boys are not of drinking age. Enquiries from potential new members to the junior team will always be welcomed.

Dancing usually takes place outdoors and may be affected by the weather. The Dartington Morris Men will make every effort to dance as advertised, but reserve the right to alter times, dates and/or venues of performances if necessary. Please check our website or contact the Bagman for updates.