

# Bathampton



Morris Men

2024

*Bathampton Morris Men*  
*Dancing in Wiltshire, Somerset & Beyond*  
*for 90 Years.*

*Officers of the side:*

*Squire:*

*Bagmen: David Marsh/Idris Roker*

*Foreman: Russell Gascoigne*

*Treasurer: Richard Eamer*

*Fool: Steve Hausey*

*Social Media: Nik Bridger*

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Steve Coombes

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"Dorset Morri'arty"

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Welcome to the Happy World of Bathampton Morris dancing in this, our 90<sup>th</sup> year!

We are immensely proud of our Cotswold tradition, and I hope you can see from watching us that we love what we do.

Right now, Morris Dancing is become increasingly popular across the land, and we are getting a buzz out of being a part of it

And, this year, for the first time, we will be joined by female dancers on many of our outings.





# Welsh Tour



# 2023





## How to watch Morris

Here are some things to look out for while you're watching us dance. Local traditions are strong and Bathampton, like other Morris sides, has its own way of dancing, but here we'll focus on features of Morris that are common across the Cotswolds.

We dance everything from single-man **jigs** to 8-person **sets**. Mostly the music is from concertinas, melodeons and accordions, depending on who's playing and who's dancing.

There are **hankie** dances, **stick** dances and occasionally clapping dances. Different styles of dance call for sharper or gentler hankie flicks, for helicopter movements or loops at the side. Sticks can be small or large, sometimes both at the same time. They do get damaged, though knuckles usually escape.

Dances are made up of **figures**, including:

- A **hey** is usually a figure of eight on the side of the set. The **hey** is often repeated as the music repeats, like a **chorus**.
- In a **half-gyp** we pass to the opposite side of the dance, then return backwards.
- In a (full) **gyp** we rotate around the dancer opposite and back to place.
- A **back-to-back** is like a do-si-do in line dancing, but with bells on!

Within a figure, we move around with steps. The basic steps are **single step** (step-hop) and **double step** (step-step-step-hop), a **feet-together jump**, and a forward-kicking **caper**. More challenging are **slows**: slow step sequences including the "beetle-crusher", "right toe behind" and "hook leg".

It's even more fun than it looks. If you're interested, the best time to join is when rehearsals start up after the Summer, in October.

**New dancers are always  
welcome!**

## OUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS....

Look out for these squeezeboxes that we play to accompany our dancers....



The CONCERTINA.  
Developed around  
1830, today's  
concertina is usually  
hexagonal, with the

same number of buttons on each side. Its portability makes it popular amongst Morris teams.

The MELODEON.

Larger than a concertina, but musically very similar, the right side has buttons



for playing the melody, and 8 or more buttons on the left side provide powerful bass chords that help give rhythm to the dancers.

Concertinas and melodeons are

usually tuned to the keys of G and D for English Folk Music, but the big PIANO

ACCORDION is fully chromatic (can play all keys), with a piano keyboard on the right side, and a large number of bass buttons on the left.



As well as our squeezeboxes, also look out for the occasional fiddle, guitar, harmonica, whistle – and, most important, our tambourine.



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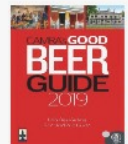
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# Where to find us in 2024

## April



Tuesday, 23 Apr

7:30pm Nunney,  
Market Place BA11 4LY.

8:45pm Witham Friary,  
The Seymour Arms, BA11 5HF



## May

Thu, 9 May

7:30pm Foresters Arms,  
Beckington BA11 6SS

8:30pm Full Moon, Rudge  
BA11 2QF



Saturday, 11 May

Green Man Festival  
Bradford on Avon - all Day

Thu, 16 May

7:30pm Boathouse,  
Newbridge Road, BA1 3NB

8:30pm Old Crown,  
Kelston BA1 9AQ

Thu, 23 May

7:30pm Hope and Anchor,  
Midford BA2 7DD

8:30pm Fox & Badger,  
Wellow BA2 8QG



May 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

Chippenham Folk Festival

Thu, 30 May

8pm The White Hart,  
Castle Combe SN14 7HT

9pm The Six Bells Inn,  
Colerne SN14 8DD



# June

## Thu, 6 June

8pm The Cross Guns,  
Avoncliff, BA15 2HB

9pm Stumble Inn,  
Bradford BA15 1LL

## Thu, 13 June

8pm The Bath Arms,  
Horningsham BA12 7LY

9pm The Cross Keys,  
Lye's Green, Corsley, BA12 7PB

## Thu, 20 June

8pm The Crown,  
Bathford BA1 7SL

9pm The Quarryman's Arms,  
Box Hill, SN13 8HN

## Saturday 22 June

Joint Day of Dance -  
Lacock

## Thu, 27 June

8pm. The Cross Keys,  
Combe Down. BA2 5RZ

9pm. The Apple Tree,  
Shoscombe. BA2 8LS



# July

## Thu, 4 July

8pm. The Pear Tree,  
Whitley, SN12 8QX

9pm. The Market Tavern,  
Melksham. SN12 6EX

## Saturday 6 July

Craft festival, Exeter  
(Guests of Exeter Morris)

July 11<sup>th</sup>

Frome Festival Walking Tour

## Thu, 18 July

Rode.

8pm The Green.

BA11 6PM

9pm. The Cross Keys

BA11 6NZ

## Thu, 25 July

7:30pm Turleigh.

The Street. BA15 2HQ.  
(With their cider festival)

9pm The Dog & Fox.

Ashley. BA15 1RT

# August

## Thu, 15 August

7:30pm The George Inn,

Norton St Philip. BA2 7LH

8:30pm Tucker's Grave, BA3 5XF

Thu, 22 August 2024,

1930 The White Horse,

Biddestone SN14 7DG

2030 The Jolly Huntsman,

Kington St Michael, SN14 1JY

## Thu, 29 August

Bradford on Avon Walking Tour

Start:

7:30pm. at the Three Horseshoes.

BA15 1LA

End:

9:15pm. at The Plough.

BA15 1EG



# Charenton



# April 2023

Invitation  
à un moment rare de Morris - dance trad anglais -  
avec deux musiciens et le "Bagman" des  
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une rencontre "Off-grid" le lundi 17 avril à 19h20  
Sur la Passerelle Simone de Beauvoir.  
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avec deux grands mouchoirs dans vos poches  
et, si vous en avez, des grelots à attacher à vos genoux !  
Plus d'infos :  
Exemple de danseurs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcltisisdic>  
Infos sur la danse [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris\\_dance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_dance)



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## Bathampton Morris Men

We are Cotswold style Morris dancers and we perform English traditional dances which can be traced back over 600 years. Every team, or "side", is distinguished by its costume; ours is a red belt and baldric over white shirt and trousers. Our hats are decorated to individual taste. The baldric bears the symbol of Chaucer's *Wyf of Bath* on the rosette.

The side was founded by a Bathampton village school teacher in 1934 and has danced continuously since then. In June 1968 we danced into the Morris Ring, an association of more than 150 Morris sides formed, also in 1934, to encourage performance of the Morris and maintain its traditions and preserve its history. We dance in the street, on the village green, outside the pub and we have taken the Morris all over Britain and Europe. We dance because we enjoy it and believe these old dances still have a place in the modern world. We hope you enjoy the performance too and you can always join in the luck of the Morris by putting a coin in the hat or the horse's mouth.



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**We look forward to welcoming**  
**Bathampton Morris Men**  
**on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**



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## The Morris Tradition

Traditional, English Morris Dancing has been performed here for hundreds of years. Probably pagan in origin it was enjoyed by country folk at the end of a day's work outside the pub with a few quarts of cider.

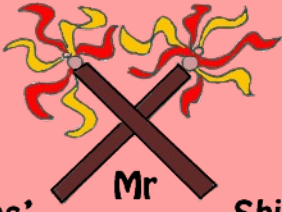
Its origins are lost in time but the Moors from north Africa arrived in Europe in the 8th century possibly bringing their Moorish dances with them. Later they worked their way north. The dances were embraced by the English, changed to suit our different village styles and, over 600 years, became part of our national heritage.

Engravings and old records show that Morris dances were performed in the mid-1400s. Shakespeare talks about a Morris dance and in 1600 one of his favourite actors, William Kemp, danced 'Kemp's Jig', all the way from London to Norwich.

In Cromwell's commonwealth the ungodly dances were systematically repressed as a dangerous, subversive activity. Some dancers blackened their faces to avoid being recognised. The restoration of the monarchy by Charles II in 1660 brought back popular events including dancing and inspired the name 'Merrie England' but then the Victorians strongly disapproved of the custom and dancing became virtually extinct by 1900

We perform dances saved for posterity, collected from the older population around 1900 and written down by Cecil Sharp and others.





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