

Bathampton



Morris Men
2025

Bathampton Morris Men

*Dancing in Wiltshire, Somerset & Beyond
for 90 years*

Officers of the Side

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Bagman: Idris Roker

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Bathampton Morris Men endeavour to fulfill all programme entries but circumstances may necessitate change or cancellation.
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Tours de Force

Not just for the military are tours but also for Morris Men...why, we here at Bathampton indulge in regular tours. Every Thursday evening following St. George's Day throughout the summer (defined as the lighter evenings), BMM are seen to head off into the wild countryside of West Wiltshire or Somerset to bring the luck of the Morris to believers and non-believers alike, neither of whom can believe such athleticism, dexterity and symbolism in the name of cultural heritage.

We don't stop there! Twice a year upon an unsuspecting Saturday, we shamelessly embark on a Fool's Tour, a whole day of dance and music led by, and in honour of, the Side's Fool, the 'Court Jester' of the Morris tradition. Two further tours feature in our annual programme: the Welsh Tour and the Irish Tour. A PhD in Geography would lead one astray in locating such tours as the former is more likely to be beheld in the hills of Devon or Dorset, whilst the latter takes us over the seas and far away, this year possibly Cyprus. For more information on our 2025 Tours, study this programme or our website for dates and venues.

Fool





90th

Anniversary



Celebrations



2024



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.

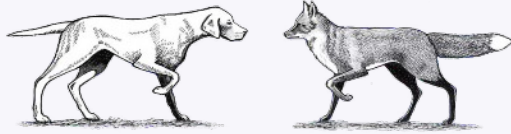
Dances are made up of **figures**, including:

- 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-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 us is when rehearsals start up after the Summer, in October.

**New dancers are always
welcome!**



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Food

We are serving a brand new weekly menu
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Lunchtimes: 12pm — 2pm
Evenings: 5:30pm — 8:30pm
Saturday: ALL DAY!
Sunday lunch: 12 noon — 3:30pm



Opening Hours

Mon Closed
Tues 5:30pm — 10:30pm
Wed — Thur
12:00pm — 2:00pm
5:30pm — 10:30pm
Fri 12pm — 2pm, 5pm — 10:30pm
Saturday 12 noon — 10:30pm
Sunday 12 noon — 9pm



33 Ashley Road
Bradford on Avon
Tel: 01225 862137
www.dogandfoxinn.com



Where to find us in 2025

April

Wednesday 23/04/2025

7:30pm Nunney

Market Place BA11 4LY

8:45pm Witham Friary

The Seymour Arms, BA11 5HF

(with Bounds of Selwood)



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May

Thursday 01/05/2025

7:30pm Bathampton
The School & John Nutt's Seat
BA2 6TQ

8:30pm Bathford
The Crown BA17SL

Saturday 03/05/2025

2pm Bath Walking Tour
Starting at The Huntsman

Thursday 08/05/2025

8pm Bath
Victoria Park
Morris Taster - All welcome

9:15pm Bath
The Assembly Inn BA1 2QU

Saturday 10/05/2025

10am Bradford on Avon
Green Man Festival

8:30pm Bath Royal Hotel
Senior Discovery Tours BA1 1JP

Thursday 15/05/2025

7:30pm Midford
Old Midford Road BA2 7BZ

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

Thursday 22/05/2025

8pm Evercreech
The Bell Inn BA4 6HY

9pm Chelynch
The Poacher's Pocket BA4 4PY

Thursday 29/05/2025

8pm Corston
St Teresa's Care Home BA2 9AE

9pm Kelston
The Old Crown BA1 9AQ



June

Thursday 05/6/2025

8pm Rode
The Green BA1 1 6PB

9pm Faulkland
Tucker's Grave BA3 5XF
(With Mr Wilkins' Shilling)

Sunday 08/6/2025

2pm Horningsham
Village Fayre BA12 7LL

Thursday 12/06/2025

8pm Bratton
The Duke BA13 4RW

9pm Steeple Ashton
The Long's Arms BA14 6EU

Thursday 19/06/2025

8pm Beckington
The Foresters' Arms BA1 1 6SS

9pm Rudge
The Full Moon BA1 1 2QF

Saturday 21/06/2025

10am (All Day) Lacock
Wiltshire Solstice Ale

Thursday 26/06/2025

8pm Northend
Seven Acres Lane BA1 7HE

9pm Box Hill
The Quarryman's Arms
(With Bells Angels)



July

Thursday 03/07/2025

8pm Colerne

The Six Bells SN14 8DD

9pm Castle Combe

The White Hart SN14 7HT

Saturday

05/07- 06/07/2025

Welsh Tour

West Cotswolds

Thursday 10/07/2025

Frome Festival Walking Tour

8pm Market Place

10 pm Three swans BA11 1BH

(With Bounds of Selwood)

Thursday 17/07/2025

8pm Batcombe

The Three Horseshoes BA4 6HE

9pm. North Brewham

The Old Red Lion BA10 OJL

Thursday 24/07/2025

8pm Turleigh

The Street BA15 2HQ.

9:30pm Ashley

The Dog & Fox BA15 1RT

Thursday 31/07/2025

8pm Bath

Victoria Park

Morris Taster - All welcome

9:15pm

The Assembly Inn BA1 2QU



August

Sunday 03/08/2025

Sidmouth

The Sea Front

(Opposite Dukes)

Thursday 14/08/2025

8pm Monkton Combe

The Wheelwrights Arms BA2 7HB

9pm Limpley Stoke

The Hop Pole BA2 7FS

Thursday 21/08/2025

8pm Biddestone

The White Horse SN14 7DG

9pm Kingston St Michael

The Jolly Huntsman SN14 6JB

Thursday 28/08/2025

Bradford on Avon Walking Tour

7:30pm Start at

Three Horseshoes BA15 1LE

10:30pm Finish at

The Plough BA15 1EG



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September

Saturday 06/09/2025

Winchester

Winchester Morris Men's

Walking Tour

Saturday 13/09/2025

3pm Bathampton

Village Day

8:30pm Bath Royal Hotel BA1 1JP

Senior Discovery Tours

**Wednesday 17/09/2025 -
Monday 22/09/2025**

Irish Tour to Cyprus

Saturday 27/09/2025

10am Fool's Down the Wells Tour

8:30pm Bath Royal Hotel BA1 1JP

Senior Discovery Tours

October

Thursday 02/10/2025

8pm Winsley Church Hall

First Winter Practice

New members welcome!



Bathampton Morris Men Need More Men!

We have about 20 men from all walks of life and spanning a wide age range but we always welcome more dancers and musicians, regardless of skill or experience. Morris is a fun and friendly way to maintain an age-old English tradition, which we have taken all over Europe, from Ireland to Hungary, from Lithuania to Malta.

We meet on Thursdays. In winter we practise in Winsley. In summer, we dance in the streets and on village greens and afterwards we relax with music, dance and song in a pub.

Interested? Talk to us on our Thursday evening tours or contact us

It's fun!

We enjoy it!

You can do it!

T: John 01373 836217 www.bathampton.dance E: welcome@bathampton.dance



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**We look forward to welcoming
Bathampton Morris Men
on August 21st 2025**




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The Morris Tradition

Traditional English Morris Dancing has been performed here for hundreds of years.

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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