

A brief history of morris

The earliest known reference to morris dance in England is from 1448. Prior to that, elements may have been introduced from the Continent. In the 15th century it was performed in the royal court, later spreading out of London and becoming popular in towns and villages. Although suppressed by Puritanism, there was a revival after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. However, in the late 17th century morris dancing was banned from churches in the diocese of Peterborough and elsewhere.

Morris was widespread in the 18th century but little is known about the actual dances prior to the 19th century, although illustrations show dancers in similar formations to those danced today. In the late 19th century morris disappeared from most towns and villages where it had once been popular. The remnants of the tradition were recorded by folklorists, and their intervention prompted a revival of interest. There are now more people dancing morris than ever before.



MARK LEAR

Peterborough Morris was formed in 1979. We have been a regular fixture at the local Straw Bear Festival since 1981.

*New men always welcome
We practise each week in Fletton
on Tuesday evenings from
September to May.
Speak to one of us here,
or contact us by email or phone.*

*We have a taster session on
Tuesday 30 September 2025
— see programme for details.*



Follow us on
social media:
[linktr.ee/
pboromorris](https://linktr.ee/pboromorris)



To book us for your pub, public or private event,
or to join, please contact us:

Email: bagman@peterboroughmorris.co.uk

Phone: 07963 694239

Web: www.peterboroughmorris.co.uk

Find women's and mixed morris sides:
morrisdancedatabase.org.uk/teams.php

Peterborough Morris



*Bringing
traditional
English morris dancing
to Peterborough
and beyond*

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Peterborough Morris perform traditional English dances in the Cotswold style. We regularly appear at pubs, festivals and events in the local area, and occasionally further afield.

The Cotswold morris tradition is based on dances and tunes collected from towns and villages in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. The dancers wear distinctive costumes and are equipped with handkerchieves, sticks and bells. This lively and entertaining activity has been a feature of England's popular culture for many centuries.



Peterborough Morris perform regularly in the city on May Day morning at dawn and Boxing Day. We are sometimes accompanied by a large cockerel, who entertains the audience and annoys the dancers!

Where to see us in 2025

- Thu 1 May** Dancing in the Dawn, Custom House, Peterborough PE1 1EG, 5.25am
- Sat 3 May** Party in the Park, Baston
- Tue 13 May** The Blue Bell, Werrington PE4 6RU, 7.30pm
- Tue 20 May** The Vine, Coates PE7 2BJ, 8pm
- Tue 27 May** The Red Lion, Spalding PE11 1SU, 8pm (with Bourne Borderers & Slapdash)
- Tue 3 June** The Royal Oak, Castor, 8pm & The Feathers, Castor, 9pm
- Tue 10 June** The Goat, Frognall PE6 8SA, 8pm & The Five Horseshoes, Barholm PE9 4RA, 9pm
- Tue 17 June** High Street, Stamford PE9 2AT, 8pm & Sheep Market, Stamford PE9 2RB, 9pm (with Rutland Morris)
- Tue 24 June** The New Crown, Whittlesey PE7 1QA, 8pm & Buttercross Square, Whittlesey PE7 1AB, 8.30pm (with Sutton Masque)
- Sat 28 June** Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival, 12–4pm
- Tue 1 July** Oundle Fringe Festival, Talbot Hotel, 7.30pm (with Crosskey Clog)
- Tue 8 July** The White Hart, Ufford PE9 3BH & The Bertie Arms, Uffington PE9 4SZ, 9pm
- Sat 12 July** John Clare Festival, Helpston
- Sun 13 July** Ely Folk Festival, Ely
- Tue 15 July** The Swan Inn, Parson Drove PE13 4HA, 8pm
- Tue 22 July** The Thirsty Giraffe, Deeping St James PE6 8PX, 8pm & The Vine, Market Deeping PE6 8AN, 9pm

- Tue 29 July** Blind Tiger, Peterborough PE1 1LZ, 8pm & Charters Bar, Peterborough PE1 1FP, 9pm (with Pig Dyke Molly)
- Wed 6 Aug** The Angel, Yarwell PE8 6PR, 8pm
- Tue 12 Aug** Ferry Meadows Caravan Club Site PE2 5UU, 7.30pm & The Windmill, Orton Waterville PE2 5EQ, 8.30pm
- Tue 19 Aug** Peterborough Beer Festival, 6–8.30pm
- Wed 27 Aug** The Pack Horse, Northborough PE6 9BL, 8pm
- Tue 2 Sep** The Straw Bear, Whittlesey PE7 1XL, 8pm
- Sun 7 Sep** Deeping Lions Street Fair & Duck Race, Deeping St James, 1–3pm
- Sat 20 Sep** International Pipe & Tabor Festival, Peterborough
- Sat 27 Sep** Peterborough Morris Day of Dance, Peterborough city centre, 10.30am–4.30pm
- Tue 30 Sep** Taster session, 8.30–10pm. Come & try morris at Fletton Club, 243A High Sreet, Fletton, Peterborough PE2 9EH
- Sun 12 Oct** World Conker Championships, The Shuckburgh Arms, Southwick PE8 5BL, 11am–2pm
- Fri 26 Dec** Peterborough city centre, 11–11.30am

...and in 2026

- Sat 17 Jan** Straw Bear Festival, Whittlesey
- Fri 1 May** Dancing in the Dawn, Custom House, Peterborough PE1 1EG, 5.25am

This programme was correct at time of press, but please check for updates on Facebook or on our website