

## 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.



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 29 September 2026  
— 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](mailto:bagman@peterboroughmorris.co.uk)

Phone: 07963 694239

Web: [www.peterboroughmorris.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughmorris.co.uk)

Find women's and mixed morris sides:

[morrisdancedatabase.org.uk/teams.php](http://morrisdancedatabase.org.uk/teams.php)

[search on county]

# Peterborough Morris



*Bringing  
traditional  
English morris dancing  
to Peterborough  
and beyond*

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## Peterborough Morris

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 2026

- Fri 1 May** Dancing in the Dawn, Custom House, Peterborough PE1 1EG, 5.25am
- Tue 12 May** The Blue Bell, Werrington PE4 6RU, 7.30pm
- Tue 19 May** The Vine, Coates PE7 2BJ, 8pm
- Tue 26 May** The Red Lion, Spalding PE11 1SU, 8pm (with Bourne Borderers)
- Tue 2 June** The Royal Oak, Castor PE5 7AX, 8pm
- Tue 9 June** The Duck & Drake, Yaxley PE7 3LY, 8pm
- Tue 16 June** The Black Horse, Baston PE6 9PB, 8pm & The Five Horseshoes, Barholm PE9 4RA, 9pm
- Tue 23 June** High Street, Stamford PE9 2AT, 8pm & Sheep Market, Stamford PE9 2RB, 9pm
- Tue 30 June** Oundle Fringe Festival, Talbot Hotel, Oundle PE8 4EA, 7.30pm (with Crosskey Clog)
- Sat 4 July** Potty Morris Festival, Sheringham
- Tue 7 July** The New Crown, Whittlesey PE7 1QA, 8pm & Buttercross Square, Whittlesey PE7 1AB, 8.30pm (with Sutton Masque)
- Sat 11 July** John Clare Festival, Helpston, 12–2pm (with Crosskey Clog)
- Sun 12 July** Ely Folk Festival, Ely
- Tue 14 July** The White Hart, Ufford PE9 3BH & The Bertie Arms, Uffington PE9 4SZ, 9pm
- Tue 21 July** The Thirsty Giraffe, Deeping St James PE6 8PX, 8pm & The Vine, Market Deeping PE6 8AN, 9pm

- Tue 28 July** The Bull, Newborough PE6 7QW, 8pm (with Pig Dyke Molly)
- Tue 4 Aug** Ferry Meadows Caravan Club Site PE2 5UU, 7.30pm & Blind Tiger Taproom, Nene Park PE2 5UU, 8.30pm
- Wed 12 Aug** The Angel, Yarwell PE8 6PR, 8pm
- Wed 19 Aug** The Bluebell Inn, Whaplode St Catherine PE12 6SN, 8pm
- Tue 25 Aug** Peterborough Beer Festival, 6–8.30pm
- Tue 1 Sep** Venue tbc
- Sun 6 Sep** Deeping Lions Street Fair & Duck Race, Deeping St James, 1–3pm
- Sat 26 Sep** Peterborough Morris Day of Dance, Peterborough city centre, 10.30am–4.30pm
- Tue 29 Sep** Taster session, 8.30–10pm. Come & try morris at Fletton Club, 243A High Sreet, Fletton, Peterborough PE2 9EH
- Sun 11 Oct** World Conker Championships, The Shuckburgh Arms, Southwick PE8 5BL, 11am–2pm
- Sat 26 Dec** Peterborough city centre, 11–11.30am

## ...and in 2027

- Sat 16 Jan** Straw Bear Festival, Whittlesey
- Sat 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