

The English Morris...

...is often believed, probably wrongly, to be based on pre-Christian or Pagan ritual; in fact, its origins are unknown. By the end of the 19th Century, Morris was dying and mainly restricted to a handful of Cotswold villages. The remaining dances were rescued from extinction by a number of collectors (notably Cecil Sharp) and a revival began.

Today, hundreds of Morris sides across the United Kingdom and the wider World dance Cotswold Morris and many more perform other forms of traditional English dance.

In the North-East there are sword dances: Rapper (with flexible swords or rappers) and Longsword (rhythmic and elegant). The North-West has Clog Morris, whilst around the Welsh borders is Border Morris (a very vigorous form); in the fens the Molly dancers appear mainly during the winter. Other variants occur in different regions of the UK, such as here in Norfolk where a solo step dance is traditional.

Kemp's Men have their own tradition of "Norwich upon Wensum", largely based on the Norfolk Longdance, and reflecting many Norfolk traditions, events or places.

Want to try out the Morris? You'll be very welcome at our Wednesday taster sessions from 19:45pm in St. Mark's Church Hall, Hall Road, Norwich, on the 21st and 28th of September 2011.

email: kempsmen@hotmail.co.uk
web site: www.kempsmen.org.uk

Beeston Brewery...

...is pleased and proud to be associated with **Kemp's Men**. Our holistic approach to building a sustainable, traditional business in the countryside blends perfectly with Kemp's history of entertaining with dance... together providing essential refreshment for body and spirit!

The story so far...

Beeston Brewery was founded in 2006 in a renovated farm building and overlooks Beeston Church and the tranquil valley beyond. This is a perfect setting to craft our fine beers.

Our water comes from deep in the Norfolk chalk from our private supply and is perfect for brewing real ale. Maris Otter malting barley, our main ingredient, is grown locally at Branthill Farm on the Holkham Estate; this is some of the finest malting barley on the planet.

We produce a number of real ales in different styles. Most goes out in casks to Norfolk pubs and other events, but we also produce bottles and 9-pint mini-casks. These are sold from shops in the area and direct from the brewery. Our original, award winning, and most popular beer is "Worth the Wait" 4.2% ABV. We hope you will give it a try and find that, as with the dancing, it does indeed - live up to the name!

Mark Riches (brewer) can be contacted on:
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web site live soon...



KEMP'S MEN OF NORWICH



Summer programme 2011

Kemp's Men of Norwich: History and Contacts

Kemp's Men of Norwich are a men's Cotswold Morris side named in honour of Will Kemp, colleague of Shakespeare, fellow shareholder in the Globe Theatre, Europe's most famous comic actor and Morris dancer extraordinaire.

Shakespeare and Kemp parted company and Kemp decided to prove that he was still the people's favourite, so, in a sort of 16th Century publicity stunt, he danced from London to Norwich – all 117 miles! In spite of primitive roads and winter weather, he achieved the feat in nine days of dancing (and wrote a book about it, giving us the phrase “a nine days wonder”).

Our side was formed in 1956. Of our founder members still associated with the side, Mr. Norris Winstone, born 1913, celebrated his 98th birthday this year. He still plays the melodeon for us, and advises on dance tunes and traditions. He was awarded an MBE in the 2009 New Year Honours for services to folk music and dance.

We dance out on Wednesday nights from May to September and occasionally perform at fêtes, fairs and private functions. To find out if we are available for your event please email us or grab the Bagman.

If you would like to join us and help keep the tradition alive, we practice from September to April at St. Mark's Church Hall, Hall Road, Norwich, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Please ask any member of the side for more details.

Squire: Peter Mayne
Foreman: Tim Huggins
Bagman: Paul Taverner
Treasurer: Mike Jones

Wednesday Dancing 2011

Whilst we fully intend keeping to the programme, there may be occasions when changes have to be made. Please check the home page of our web site for the latest information:

www.kempsmen.org.uk

Date	Time	Place	Venue
May 11 th	19:30	Brooke	King's Head
May 18 th	19:45	Reepham	King's Arms
May 25 th	19:45	Norwich	Red Lion, <i>Bishop's Bridge</i>
June 1 st	19:45	Norwich	Wig and Pen
June 8 th	19:45	Old Buckenham	Gamekeeper
June 15 th	19:45	Chedgrave	White Horse
June 22 nd	19:45	Surlingham	Ferry House
June 29 th	19:45	Wreningham	Bird in Hand
July 6 th	19:45	Neatishead	White Horse
July 13 th	19:45	Ranworth	Maltsters
July 20 th	19:45	Banningham	Crown
July 27 th	19:45	Surlingham	Coldham Hall
Aug 3 rd	19:45	Ludham Bridge	Dog Inn
Aug 10 th	19:45	Winterton	Fisherman's Return
Aug 17 th	19:30	Horning	New Inn
Aug 24 th	19:30	Norwich	Riverside
Aug 31 st	19:30	Norwich	Adam & Eve
Sept 7 th	19:30	Norwich	Wig & Pen

Other Dancing Dates:

Monday, 25th April - Spixworth Fete - nr Norwich
Sunday, May 1st - BUGA Festival - Koblenz, Germany
Saturday 18th June - Sprowston Fete - Norwich
Saturday 2nd July - Lobster Potties Festival - Sheringham, North Norfolk
Weekend 12th - 15th August - Knots of May Tour - Aldeburgh, Suffolk
Sunday 11th September - Thornham, North Norfolk
Monday 26th December - Banningham Crown - nr Aylsham

