

Kennet Morris Heritage Evenings!

The ever-popular Kennet Morris, who appear throughout the summer around Berkshire and South Oxfordshire, are keeping a unique part of our island's heritage alive. The earliest record of Morris Dancers in Reading is found in St Lawrence Churchwarden records for the year 1513, when payments were made to morris dancers for bells, costumes ... and ale, though other records in England go back to 1448. That's some heritage. The Victorians agreed and collected scores of dances from around the Cotswolds, traditions we are able to reproduce today, keeping them alive.

We have set aside our first couple of our Monday practice evenings on 7th and 14th October as "taster" nights where anyone can join in the dancing and learn more about the heritage of "The Morris" ... and Kennet (under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult). If it grabs you, (and be warned, it is very addictive) we have dance instructors ready, willing and able to turn you into a Morris dancer on Monday evenings ready for next year's season.

From the start of October to the end of April, we meet for a couple of hours of practice at 8:00 pm on Mondays. Our venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Shinfield RG2 9BY, close to St Mary's church, in Church Lane, not far from The Bell & Bottle, Shinfield School Green where we relax from 10:00pm.

Musicians (acoustic) are always welcome. Under-18s may become members, provided that they have permission of a parent or other suitably responsible, approved adult. And why not bring along your partner? A while back we decided to do away with being men only, but so far we've only Carey, an excellent musician but no regular female dancers. We'd be very happy to see that change.

Morris is undergoing something of a revival – people seem to want to enjoy themselves post-covid – and we certainly need more dancers to join in the fun now as quite a few of our long-standing members are reaching the end of their dancing careers. As well as the enjoyment The Kennet can offer fellowship – many of us are now lifelong friends – and a way of keeping fit (it is quite energetic), and many would say it certainly improves your well-being, dancing away any blues.



Kennet End of Season Tour of Winchester 2022

We've put together a "Your Welcome To Kennet Morris" to help new dancers find their feet. To find out even more just go online and or go to

<https://kennetmorris.com/join.php> or find our Kennet Morris Facebook Page.