

WHO ARE WE?

Dead Horse Morris Men & Broomdasher Ladies hail from the coastal town of Whitstable in Kent. We have been dancing for 38 years, entertaining audiences across Kent and beyond. The men's side performs a regional style of Kentish Morris whilst the ladies dance in the Border style. We dance around our home town of Whitstable and the area of the North Kent Coast that extends from Thanet in the East to Faversham in the West. Our season starts on St. George's Day (23rd April) and finishes in October with a further outing on Boxing Day. In addition to the traditional dance, we are renowned for playing traditional music, singing traditional songs and drinking traditional ale!



WHAT IS MORRIS DANCING?

The Morris tradition is extremely old. Just how old nobody really knows. The earliest written reference is thought to be from the annals of the Goldsmith's Company of London, recording a payment of 7 shillings to the 'Morys dancers', in 1448. However, it is possibly much older than that, with elements of the tradition appearing to be of pagan origin, performed at fire festivals held at the beginning, middle and end of the Dark Days of Winter. Although both Church and State have often disapproved of these traditions, and sometimes even outlawed them, the common people have kept them alive. Like all living things, they have changed with the passage of time. Different styles have arisen in different parts of the country at different times. Dead Horse, for example, bases their kit on Whitstable Longshoremen of the early 1900s, and we paint our faces as a disguise.

SPONSORS & CREDITS



A grateful thanks to our Sponsors who help us keep our Morris Heritage alive and the talented Photographers who have allowed us to use their pictures. Front cover thanks to Medway Council - Steve Hartridge, P2 Malcolm Fairman (left) Philp Wood (right), P3 Malcolm Fairman (left) Philp Wood (right), P4 Malcolm Fairman (left) Philp Wood (right), P5 Malcolm Fairman.

JOIN US

Interested in dancing or joining our happy band of musicians? We practice in the winter months at Swalecliffe Baptist (Free) Church, 52 Herne Bay Road, Whitstable, CT5 2LR on Monday evenings. If you can tell your right foot from your left and can count beyond three you are already streets ahead of most of us and would be welcome to join. Have a go at our Recruitment Day at Zizzi's in Whitstable (CT5 1BU) and Harbour (CT5 1AB) on Saturday 7th September (11am-2pm).

CONTACT US



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WWW.DEADHORSE.ORG.UK

WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS,
FESTIVALS, WEDDINGS, FILM & TV

DEAD HORSE MORRIS & BROOMDASHERS DANCE STANDS 2024





APRIL

Sat 20th Whitstable May Day fundraiser Ceilidh, St. Mary's Hall, Whitstable, CT5 1DD (approx 8pm)

Tues 23rd St George's Day, The Rose Inn, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RQ

Sat 27th St George's Celebrations, Yellow Stocks, Sittingbourne, ME10 4PD (11-2pm)

Sat 27th St George's Celebrations, Goody's Brewery, Herne, CT6 7NP (4-6pm)

MAY

Wed 1st Dawn Rising, Beacon Point, Whitstable CT5 2BS and Whitstable Harbour, CT5 1AB (from 5am)

Wed 1st Whitstable Schools (9am-1pm)

Sat 4th Sweeps Festival, Rochester

Sun 5th Sweeps Festival, Rochester

Mon 6th Whitstable May Day, Whitstable

Fri 17th-Sun 19th PowderHorse, Midlands (joint weekend with Powderkegs)

Thurs 23rd Whitstable Tour & Royal Naval Reserve, Whitstable, CT5 1BQ (with Seven Champions & Seven Sisters)

Sun 26th Heron Angling Society, Herne Bay, CT6 8RP (1-3pm)

Wed 29th Shipwright's Arms, Hollow Shore, ME13 7TU

JUNE

Mon 3rd The Lower Bell, Bluebell Hill, ME20 7EF (with Kent Korkers)

Wed 12th The Bell & Crown, Canterbury, CT1 2DZ

Thurs 20th The Red Lion, Lenham, ME17 2PG (with Boughton Monchelsea)

Wed 26th The Red Lion, Hernhill, ME13 9TU

JULY

Wed 3rd The Chequers, Doddington, ME9 0BG (with Wild Women of Kent)

Sat 6th Canterbury Medieval Pageant, Canterbury (from 11am)

Wed 10th Huntsman & Horn, Broomfield, CT6 7AF

Fri 12th Mencap Fun Day - Herne Bay Hub, CT6 5DQ (12-1pm)

Sat 13th Ewell St. Mary Day of Dance, Ewell, Surrey (from 10am)

Wed 17th The King Ethelbert Inn, Reculver, CT6 6SU (with Offcumduns)

Fri 19th-Sun 21st Dead Horse Morris Ale, Herne CT6 7NP & Whitstable

Wed 24th The Red Lion, Badlesmere, ME13 0NX

AUGUST

Fri 9th-Fri 16th Broadstairs Folk Week

Wed 21st The Bouncing Barrel, Herne Bay, CT6 5EA (7.30pm)

Mon 26th Day of Syn, Dymchurch (from 10am)

Wed 28th Ales & Antiques, Tankerton, CT5 2AN

Sat 31st Faversham Hop Festival, Faversham

SEPTEMBER

Sun 1st Faversham Hop Festival, Faversham

Sat 7th Dead Horse Morris Recruitment Day - Whitstable, Zizzi's, CT5 1BU & Whitstable Harbour, CT5 1AB (11am-2pm)

Sat 14th Hop Hoodening, Canterbury Cathedral & Tour

OCTOBER

Sat 5th Green Hop Day, Goodys Brewery, Herne, CT6 7NP (1-3.30pm)

DECEMBER

Thurs 26th Mince Pie Tour, Whitstable Harbour, CT5 1AB (12 & 1pm)

Most midweek stands start at 8pm but please note this is GMT (General Morris Time). Stands are rarely cancelled but check for updates on www.deadhorse.org.uk