

Belchamp Morris



Our history: Formed in 1976 and based in Belchamp St. Paul Essex, we perform traditional English folk dance in the style of '**Border Morris**', which originates on the English-Welsh border.

Morris dancing was first recorded in England in London on 19th. May 1448, when 'Moryssh dauners' were paid 7-shillings, (35p), for their services. These days we no longer ask to be paid, (for fear of refund demands), but do ask our hosts to quench our thirsts. We do sell badges to raise funds for our nominated charity.

Our costume: We wear tailcoats and breeches, being a traditional dress of the 18th. Century. Our hats are adorned with pheasant feathers, which would have been a poor man's decoration and the bells warn people of our presence and give them time to escape.

Our makeup: Our faces are painted to form a disguise, a tradition going back centuries when Morris dancing was judged to be a form of begging and could result in imprisonment (a demand still made to this day after the public have watched us dance). Burnt cork and soot have been replaced with modern cosmetics to protect our delicate skin.

Our mission: *To simply entertain and to continue the folk traditions of our great country. We hope you enjoy what we do.*

Charity: *We donate all the profits from our badge sales and donations received to our nominated charity for 2019:-**The Bridge Project - Sudbury**, which supports people with learning difficulties, mental health, dementia and much more. Thank you for your support.*

Recruitment: *We are looking for **ladies** and **gentlemen** to join us and also **boys** and **girls** to form a **Youth Side**. Enthusiastic dancers or players of any musical instrument, you'll all fit in.*

Benefits of being with the Belchamp Morris:

Free access to festivals.

Dress up in traditional costume.

Good exercise.

Free beer.

You meet some lovely people.

Free beer.

*We practice on **Monday** nights at Belchamp St. Paul Community House CO10 7BX, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and then it's off to the local hostelry for refreshments. Come and join us.*

*Look us up on **belchampmorrismen.co.uk***

*Email us at: **info@belchampmorrismen.co.uk***



Next imminent outings in 2019

24th August. Half Moon, Belchamp St. Paul CO10 7DP

7th September. Chappel Beer Festival CO6 2DS

13th-15th September. Golden Star Norwich NR1 *(you can't miss us)*

6th October. Halstead Twinning CO9 *(you still can't miss us)*

19th October. Trafalgar Day Wickham St. Pauls CO9 2PT