



East Suffolk Morris Men



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East Suffolk Morris Men - Profile

East Suffolk Morris Men (ESMM), based in Ipswich, have been dancing since 1958. You may have seen us at events dressed in white with blue waistcoats. Our “Ship” emblem is taken from the Ipswich & Felixstowe insignia, and decoration from Ipswich colours.

We mainly perform the Cotswold tradition of dances, but in winter we also include dances from the Welsh borders dressed in colourful tatter coats. Some of ESMM perform sword dances from the North East of England, and traditional Mummers Plays.



There is a long history of dancing Morris around Ipswich. We have picture archives of people dancing around the turn of the C19. “Billy”, the Hobby Horse was made at Summerhill School, Leiston in the 1930s for the Suffolk Morris Men, he then joined ESMM in 1968.

“Billy” has been with us on our many tours around the County, the rest of the UK and abroad – 49 overseas tours, 14 countries across 4 continents including Arras in France which is twinned with Ipswich, Pakistan, Jordan, U.S.A. and Taiwan.

We have often been asked to represent the British Council, East Anglian Tourist Board, civic and commercial bodies at Festivals, Trade Fairs etc. worldwide. In the UK, some of our Members have been involved in running and performing at Folk Festivals such as the Felixstowe Folk International Festival.

Through our contacts, we have brought many visitors to sing, dance and play music in Ipswich. This year in June we will host performers from Lithuania (seen right) and Belgium.



Our aim is to enrich our community’s cultural experience by bringing the best of local English and overseas heritage of music, song and dance to Ipswich and surrounding areas.



East Suffolk Morris Men in Numbers

- 1274 Club night performances in Ipswich Area
- 1265 Man-years of dancing over 50 years
- 122 Members – 34 currently performing
- 76 Dance repertoire – 17 traditions + Sword
- 74 (average) Suffolk performances per year
- 49 Overseas tours, 14 countries 4 continents