

Despite what many people say, there is no evidence that Morris Dancing is the remnant of a Pagan fertility rite. It is more probably derived from a Spanish dance called the Morisco, introduced into England at the end of the Middle Ages. There was Morris Dancing in Guildford by 1530, and after that it seems to have been a regular sight in the area. Chimney sweeps were dancing a kind of Morris as part of their May Day festivities in early Victorian Guildford and Farnham, but it fell out of favour and had virtually disappeared from Surrey a hundred years ago. Sadly, none of the dances were ever noted down. In Edwardian times the Morris was revived by the folk music collector Cecil Sharp and now there are over a dozen sides in Surrey.

The dances performed by the Pilgrim Morris Men are mainly from the Cotswolds where many of the villages had their own "tradition" or style of dancing. The mythical creature N'Dobbin is known to appear with the Pilgrim Morris Men on occasion, and the mysterious Jack In The Green exhibits himself for our Summerpole celebrations.



<http://www.pilgimmorrismen.org.uk>

## Tour List 2011

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Practicing during the winter (when we also perform a Mummings' Play on Twelfth Night) the side generally dances in the Guildford area during the summer months. We are known to dance further afield, as you'll see inside this leaflet. For some reason we're mostly to be found outside a pub!

Over the last few years the Pilgrim Morris Men have received support from the Hogs Back Brewery in Tongham. The side would like to take this opportunity to thank the brewery for their continued help and encouragement, not to mention the fact they brew pretty fine beer...