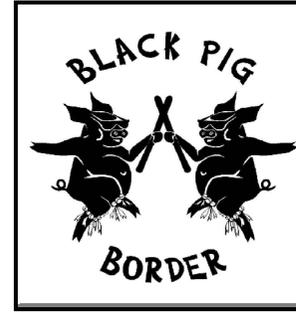


Summary of Information for New Members		
Non-Negotiables	Ideals	Others
Outfit... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black top hat – decorated as brightly as possible • 2 long sticks & 1 short stick • Colourful tail coat (or tatters) (There's a pattern that can be borrowed) • Boots • Face paints • Sun glasses • Bells • Scarves, Beads etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black trousers / tights / leggings • Stick bag • Black boots • Blackened / coloured face, or parts there of • Predominantly Black T-shirt (with BP logo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument to play, when not dancing (percussion?) • Some disguising of the face is required
Other... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never walk through the dance set • Always dance at least the first dance in tail coats, until the Squire gives permission to remove • Dancers must remain with the side when dancing in progress • Allow audience to see dances – percussionists may have to stand behind other musicians • Percussionists should be the same side as the drummer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to practice every Wednesday 8pm for 8:15 start. • Inform Bagman or Foreman in advance if you can't get. • If you commit to a dance out, try not to cancel, unless it's unavoidable. • At practice, don't chat when dances are being taught or Parish Notices being read. <p>*** HAVE FUN! ***</p>	Website www.blackpigborder.org.uk/ Facebook Events www.facebook.com/blackpigborder Chat www.facebook.com/groups/blackpigborder Videos www.facebook.com/groups/blackpigvideos



Welcome to Black Pig Border Morris

1. It Begins: The prospects before us:

We are named after the ship of the infamous Captain Pugwash. Black Pig Border was formed in 1986 near Eastwood on the Nottingham and Derby border. Over the years we have developed our own style of Border Morris performing both traditional dances and

some of our own invention. We are a mixed group of both female and male dancers and musicians. We wear brightly coloured tailcoats and top hats festooned with feathers, flowers, ribbons and bells. We uphold the Border Morris tradition by blacking our faces as a disguise. We practise on a Wednesday night at the Gate Inn in Asworth and all are most welcome. Our start time is 8:00pm for 08:15, aiming for a 10:00pm finish.

Dance Styl e -- Border Morris - from the Welsh border counties of England.

Sticks: Should be made of wood, the length needs to be ideally the same length as your inside leg measurement. Ash, blackthorn, yew, and some fruit trees, are ideal for a sustainable stick. Willow, elder and chestnut are not, as they can break unexpectedly. You will need at least two sticks (but spares are always useful) and you will also need a "short" stick, these are of the same wood, they are used for certain dances and also indoor use where the venue has a low ceiling. Your short stick should be about half the length of your standard stick. (Remember -- sticks **do** grow on trees! Old railway trackbeds, and other footpaths, are ideal search areas. Keep a saw in the car?). Always ask before borrowing a stick and *always* put it back!

Dance Kit: (Dress code for events)

Kit is very much a personal thing but basics are in the constitution, viz: black top hat, t-shirt, trousers/jeans/leggings and boots - with a coloured tail coat, black coat (or other long coat) with lots of added, and varied rather than 'themed', colour. Kit is also a developing thing - it takes people a few months to a couple of years at least to reach a 'finished' article - so don't worry about it, just do what you can. Start with a basic black outfit and add as much coloured accessorizing as possible (eg ribbons, beads, scarves, feathers etc from charity shops, car boots, party shops etc). See photos at www.blackpigborder.co.uk for ideas. In hot weather, and at the Squires discretion tailcoats, may be removed after the first dance in a set, therefore, it is also important that whatever you wear under your tailcoat is similarly bright!

It is worth remembering that the more you add accessories to your kit, the heavier it becomes and, after all, you have to dance in it/and or play an instrument. Other than the internet, the cheapest top hats can usually be obtained from wedding hire and similar places for a few pounds when time expired. Grey ones can be treated (and waterproofed!) with a whole aerosol of black paint from a car accessory shop.

Face Paint: We are a traditional black face border side and as such it is expected that at least 50% of your face is painted black, this doesn't necessarily mean solid black, decorative themes are acceptable and other colours can be added.

We generally supply blacking freely to members - on condition you use it obviously! Failing that, yes its theatrical blacking - obtainable from Hobbycraft and the like or off the internet. Snazaroo is the most common but Grimas some people find easier to remove and claim it is better on the skin. It is best removed using cleansing wipes - some are brilliant, others just smudge it around. Home Bargains sell 'Ageless Wipes' (or similar) which are excellent and cheap! If all else fails carry soap and water and a (black?) flannel.

Some people never drive in kit but black up and dress up on arrival. Using a damp sponge you can black up in about 30 seconds. Other people use a brush and do everything before arrival. Its up to you!

Dance Practice: We do not pay for the use of our practice room, however, it is expected that you buy at least one drink from the bar, it doesn't have to be alcoholic. Tea and coffee can also be purchased, as can snacks.

Beer: Nuff said - except that drinking is endemic in morris dancing generally and Black Pig is no exception. That being said, the performance comes first!

If in doubt, when dancing, put your stick on your right shoulder, turn right and start on your right foot. You will usually be right!

Who is who?

The Squire is the head honcho and what he says goes (Or at least he thinks it does)

The Dance Foreman has surprisingly still got hair ---he is the poor soul who teaches us lot how to dance

Our Treasurer has hold of the purse strings and never lets go

The Bagman is responsible for taking/making bookings and arranging Dance outs

We also have the following **sub-officers**:

Welfare Officer: As we may have vulnerable people in the side at any time, we have a welfare officer with whom you can consult should you need to. Parents and guardians are responsible for their own at all times. Younger members are always welcome to join the side but must be accompanied by a *participating* responsible adult.

Archivist & Photographic Archivist(s): One or two roles: Keeper(s) of all the articles, and photographic media published about us.

A Webmaster to keep our web and social media pages up to date.

The Music: Yes! Non-musicians need to read this too!

A good tight band is essential to good dancing. When the band 'grew' a few years ago, previous officers outlined how this should be made up. This has not changed. I.e. squeeze boxes (and other loud 'melody instruments') in the middle with the big drum next to them. All other percussion on the same side as the drum, everything else (wind & strings) on the other side. It does not matter if this ends up lop-sided. It's the only way that works. At its maximum the line of musicians should not exceed more than eight (or an absolute maximum of 10?). This is because of the sound delays and reaction times to the main beat, which can go off if the line gets longer. A band two, or even three, deep is so much better. If you are late joining the band, just GO BEHIND. It's not good enough to fit in where you feel like it, or tag on the end. In the worst case, the dancers simply cannot step or stick in time. This is not anybody's particular job; it's something everyone should know and just do - ok?

All the dancers require is a good solid Beat (not a staccato one!). This must be at the right tempo for each dance. So, once the first musician has set the tempo for the drum, the dancers and other musicians follow the drum - ok?

Insurance: We have two types. Firstly, there is 'Public Liability' insurance which (for example) covers you from being sued if your stick breaks and a piece injures a passer by. Secondly, there is 'Personal Accident' insurance which covers you if (another example) you trip and break a leg whilst dancing or a musician pokes you in the eye with a fiddle bow... We hope never to need either of these insurances!

Membership and Subscriptions: You are considered a member from the outset (therefore covered by public liability insurance). Beginners are generally known as 'Prospects' and you will only be a 'proper member' after you have first danced, or played, at a dance out. It is then only *after* you have first performed out that your first subscription will be due on the *following* 1st January. However, personal accident insurance will only be effective from (usually) the first 26th January after that year's subscription is paid. Therefore there is an advantage to prompt payment!