

Ip-art Children's Folk Fest and the DE Spectacular Dancing Tent Tuesday June 29th and Thursday July 1st 2010

During the summer of 2010 there will be two events in Ipswich which aim to engage Suffolk Primary Schoolchildren, with their traditional English Folk roots.

Firstly, following on from the success of a Children's Folk Festival held in 2008 as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of East Suffolk Morris Men (ESMM)¹ where over 800 Suffolk schoolchildren came together to see the Morris dance, hear East Anglian folk songs and dance traditional country dances, an ongoing Children's Folk Fest has been adopted by Ip-art² the annual summer arts festival organised by Ipswich Borough Council. You can see pictures and video of the 2009 events on our website constantbilly.org.uk



ESMM Jubilee event 2008



Secondly, following on from the success of events in 2009, DanceEast³ will again bring the Spiegeltent Idolize to Christchurch Park Ipswich to be their "Spectacular Dancing Tent". They have asked ESMM to lead Children's Morris dance workshops at the Tent to coincide with the Ip-art Children's Folk Fest.

(left) Morris at the Tent 2009

These two events will be run in parallel on the two dates so that schools can choose to take part in one or both events morning / afternoon. As in previous years, the Fest is supported by a Schools Resource Pack available on-line or as a booklet from the Constant Billy Trust⁴

Please contact us if you would like to register interest in attending these events, or if you would like more information.

At a time when some doubt has been raised in the Press about the sustainability of English Folk traditions – particularly the Morris, and the objective of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad to get more young people inspired to take part in physical & cultural pursuits, these events offer a wonderful opportunity to make an impact in our Region.



(Right) Children dancing a North-west Morris dance

¹ ESMM - East Suffolk Morris Men - eastsuffolkmorris.com

² Ip-art - Summer Arts Festival sponsored by Ipswich Borough Council - ip-art.com

³ DanceEast - Bringing Dance to the Eastern Region - danceeast.co.uk

⁴ Constant Billy Trust – constantbilly.org.uk