

What Morris means to me...

My entry for this years Sue Dyke award comes from two images I've been working on digitally, around two things that mean a lot to me, Morris & Christmas.

I have only been a Morris dancer for 18 months, joining Bedcote Morris early last year, and in that short space of time Morris has consumed my life & means a great deal to me. I hope to start dancing even more over the next year, with trials for Harlequin Morris in November!

Christmas has always meant a lot to me since a very young age, a time of year when people can come together, no matter what your situation, and share a special time of year.

Last year, I did a series of 3 designs for Morris Christmas Cards, and sold them with a percentage of sales being donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital. As a full time Tattooist & Artist, I have been designing various Christmas cards for a few years now, and last year it made sense to fill a gap in the market for Morris cards! The response to them was incredible and it didn't take long to sell out. The profits enables a mental health ward of Birmingham Children's Hospital to buy a digital camera for the children on the ward to use. This alone, made me realise, it wasn't just me that Christmas & Morris means a lot too!

So this year, I've been working on new designs, and would like to enter two of them for the Sue Dyke award. They have not been seen by anyone before this entry. The first, depicts to elves Morris dancing with candy canes, and the second, of two musicians around a Christmas tree playing music. Our Christmas dance outs are always some of my favourite of the year, and it is such a fun way to see Morris depicted and shown.

When you search for Morris artwork online and anything Morris related, you find a lot of serious work, so I wanted to create something fun and different. Morris traditions are being carried on through each side, but things are also changing, young members are creating exciting new dances that people love to watch, Harlequin Morris being a prime example for his. So it made sense to me for the depictions of Morris to change too, and I hope my drawings show that.