South West Early Music Forum

registered charity no. 291319

The Nine Days Wonder –
the story of Will Kemp's morris dance
from London to Norwich
directed by
Alison Kinder

Saturday 9th June 2018, 10 for 10.30 am – 4.30 pm
St. Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Backwell BS48 3JJ

Parking in Church Lane or adjacent side roads, X1 or X2 bus from Bristol Bus Station to Backwell crossroads, or main line station Nailsea & Backwell + 25 min. walk.

Kemp was an actor and dancer specialising in comic roles, and best known for having been one of the original players in Shakespeare's company. In February and March 1600 he undertook what he would later call his 'Nine Days Wonder', in which he Morris danced from London to Norwich (a distance of over a hundred miles) in a journey which took him nine days spread over several weeks. Later that year he published a description of the event to prove to doubters that it was true.

Our day will follow Kemp's journey through extracts from his diary, with musical pieces illustrating the events he recounts: songs about dancing, and resting from dancing; meeting maids and shepherds along the way; arriving in Burntwood on market day and getting snowed in at Bury St Edmunds; tunes from Playford's 'Dancing Master' called Kemp's Jig, Maids Morris and A Trip to Bury.

The day is for all instrumentalists and singers, pitch will be A=440. Most of the pieces are songs, but a few are dance tunes, so singers might like to have an instrument up their sleeves, or be prepared to add enthusiastic morris bells to the band. Players of double reeds could usefully bring a softer alternative, or sing, for the pieces about resting/sleeping/being in church...

Please complete the tear-off slip below and return by 18th May with cheque for £21 (£18 to EMF members) payable to SWEMF to Heather Gibbard, 81 Church Lane, Backwell BS48 3JL. Tel. 01275 463012 (07791388536), heathergibbard@hotmail.co.uk.

Name ....Address...

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Tel. No..Mobile... ....

Instrument(s)/Voice..

e-mail...

I can offer/would like a lift from...