

# All you want to know about Medieval Entertainment....



<http://www.medievalperformers.co.uk/>

## Medieval Entertainers and Performers

Medieval entertainers are booked for a wide range of functions throughout the country. Some of these are:

- Films
- Television
- Weddings
- Pub Openings
- Private parties
- Corporate Fun Days
- St George's Day Events
- Photo Shoots and Promotions
- Medieval Balls and Banquets
- Public events in Castles or Public Houses

Below is a selection of the different types of entertainment and styles of performers that are available for any form of Medieval entertainment. While this may not be exhaustive, it hopefully gives an insight into the variety of Medieval entertainment available in this country.

### ARCHERY

There are two different types of "Have a go Archery"

The one version features rubber tipped arrows and is suitable for Medieval Birthday parties or events where there will be a large number of children present.

The other version features firing metal arrows at targets within a roped off area, with a large safety net at the back. This is usually available for Medieval event and fun days, weddings or similar events where the number of adults outweighs the number of children.



### CALLIGRAPHY

Calligraphy is a type of visual art. It is often called the art of fancy lettering. As far as having Calligraphy at medieval events is concerned, it can be one or other or perhaps both of the following.

#### **Demonstrations**

A variety of skills and techniques can be demonstrated. For example: calligraphy, text and border decoration, illumination, printmaking, ink production, quill cutting and use, etc.

## **Workshops**

Workshops in a variety of formats can be undertaken. This can be classroom style or on a more informal 'have a go/drop in' basis.



## **DANCING**

This is an option for an event if the musicians who are providing the music are able to lead your guests in some Medieval dances. Not all musicians offer this, so it is a good idea to request it at the time of booking should you want it. In order to offer dancing, you will need a minimum of 3 musicians, 4 is preferable. One of them will then act a leader/caller while the others provide the music. Most Medieval dances taught at banquets, weddings or similar events are very straightforward and the basic steps can be learned in a few minutes. This is a fun, interactive way to conclude the medieval entertainment.



## **FALCONRY**

Having birds of prey at an event is becoming very popular. If a large outdoor event such as a country show, fun day or corporate event, then the birds would be available on perches for the public to see up close and the falconer would fly the birds as an arena display act.

Having a falconer at a wedding is also more common at the moment. The birds can again be on perches for display, but many falconers allow the bride and groom and guests top hold the birds for photo sessions. Why not make the wedding ceremony more exciting by having the ring flown down to the groom by an owl.



## GAMES

The best games and puzzles either go on forever - or suddenly re-appear as if from nowhere. Our games experts can provide all the necessary items for playing these early games. Many of the earlier **Medieval, Tudor & Stuart** table and board games can be simply re-created on paper or card by folding, using their templates and decorating to suit. They can also offer suggestions for playing live Morris games on the beach or in the garden. A simple slot together teetotum spinner to use as a scoring die - alternatively even for predicting the weather or fortune telling - can also be made and decorated. Older children may enjoy having a go at counting and calculating grids.



## JESTERS

The jester is synonymous with medieval banquets. If you don't have any other entertainment, the jester is a must. He obviously works well when mixing with other entertainers such as musicians or knights, but can provide sufficient entertainment to be able to stand alone.

The skills jesters offer vary from person to person, but generally speaking, the modern day jester utilizes circus skills as his background. This means that he will be a multi-skilled performer who can fit into any situation. Many jesters walk on stilts, juggle and provide short shows throughout the proceedings. They will help break the ice and incorporate patter and humour into their performance. Some will also provide a fire show if required. There are a couple of jesters in the country who, rather than using circus skills, use music, stories and jokes as their method of entertaining.

The jester can, in many cases, also act as MC, calling guests into the banquet, announcing the Bride and Groom, explaining the rules of court, calling in the food and proving any announcements the couple may require.

For large country fairs or corporate events, many jesters can offer a mixture of walkabout entertainment and family oriented shows that normally last around half an hour. These shows will feature the skills of the individual jester, ranging from juggling, object balancing, diabolo, devil stick, fire, bed of nails or walking on broken glass etc.....



## JOUSTING and Fighting Knights

Britain has an amazing number of highly qualified jousting teams available to provide that exciting form of entertainment for any large event. Ideal for a corporate family day, a Medieval event in a castle, or even, given the right venue a version of the joust suitable for a wedding. Feel the adrenalin rush as two fully armoured knights bear down on each other at the tilt, urging their horses forward. See the wood fly from their lances as they strike each other's shields or bodies. Will you cheer for the champion, or encourage the black knight. Prior to the joust itself, see the knights don their armour; perhaps hear a little about the foot soldiers and their methods of warfare. See a hand to hand skirmish, maybe even be taught the routine and have a go yourself!!!

At your wedding, watch out for the knight who claims "Prima Nocta" (Droit de seigneur) at the wedding feast. The groom had better hope that there is a champion on hand to defend his bride's honour. Hand to hand combat will take place with the knights fighting with swords (watch the sparks fly), shields, axes, maces or whatever else they can lay their hands on.



## MAGICIANS

Try adding something a little different to your Medieval event. We have a number of magicians who fit in to this theme. They are all costumed accordingly and present walkabout/close up magic for your guests. Merlin, for example, not only astounds people with his magic, but he has an incredible sense of humour and tells some amazing jokes. Other medieval magicians are more refined!!



## MEDIEVAL CHARACTERS

If you are staging a fairly large event, and require a variety of Medieval characters, stalls etc. Then we can supply. We have any number of Medieval characters such as the Apothecary, Potter, Simpleton, Leather worker, Medieval Tile maker, Wattle and Daub hurdle makers, Peddlar, Silkwoman, Gongfarmer etc....

Some of these are set up to demonstrate their craft with members of the public able to have a go, while others, such as Simple Tom, offer a medieval style walkabout act.



## MUSICIANS

There are numerous Medieval musicians based around the country. They are available as soloists, duos, trios, quartets and more. There is also a great variety between them. Some musicians play authentic Medieval music on reproductions of original instruments including (but not limited to): hurdy gurdy, bagpipes (various types), lutes, gitterns, shawms, recorders etc. Others play what I'd describe as more English Folk incorporating many well known more up to date music. They may use guitars, recorders percussion etc. Some of the larger musical groups will also incorporate teaching a few dances if required. (see above)



## PUPPETRY

Medieval puppeteers offer a range of entertainment largely geared towards children. Some performers tell stories based on subjects such as Robin Hood, wearing their story booth around their necks, while others have a variety of dragons which they use as walkabout entertainment. They may weave stories into these walkabouts, or even tell a story to a group of children in a more formal (i.e. seated) setting. Whatever the format, a great time is guaranteed and the children's imagination is allowed to run wild.



## STATUES

Gaining popularity at events these days are Human Statues or Living Statues. The performer wears clothing and is body painted to resemble a statue. These usually come with their own plinths. Imagine the surprise of your guests when one of the statues in a row of statues at, say a stately home, suddenly moves. There are statues available these days to suit any occasion. It could be that the guests walk into the banqueting hall past statues of two knights to whom they don't really give a second glance. They've all seated when the knights "come to life" and engage in a battle. Their use is limited only by your imagination.



## STORYTELLERS

A good story always goes down well. We have a number of storytellers based around the country who can set the scene and capture the imagination with a gripping tale. Mostly used as part of the entertainment during a full day of Medieval fun, there is the occasion to sometimes use a story during a banquet. If you are organising a Medieval fun day where there are likely to be a number of children, then a storyteller is a must.



We can also assist with props, tableware and costumes if required.

**For further details, please visit our medieval web site at:**

**<http://www.medievalperformers.co.uk/>**

**or 'phone Chris on 07710 788 671**

