



Perth Morris Men enjoying themselves. Picture: Will Russell

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Morris Men out to get new talent

THE Perth Morris Men in Nedlands are looking to expand the ranks for their lively performances of English folk dancing.

While the style of dance dates back to the 15th century, the local side has entertained people around Perth for 35 years, becoming Australia's longest-serving Morris dancing group.

Steven Mansfield, one of the group's dozen members, joined in 2006 after being a fan of the dance form for many years.

"I'd often see Morris dancers at folk music festivals on the East

Coast and while it's a bit out there with the hats and flowers, it's a lot of fun," he said.

While most members are expats from England, they can boast that two of their longest-serving members are dinkum Aussies.

Mr Mansfield said the customary audience response was complete surprise. Crowds were often astonished the group even exists.

"We always get a good reaction, as they see that we're having a lot of fun," he said.

The light-hearted group meets from 7pm to 9pm on the first and

third Wednesday of each month at the Guide Hall in Monash Avenue in Nedlands and is on a recruitment drive to entice a few more budding dancers.

"We go through the dances for practice and then adjourn to a nearby drinking establishment for a refreshing beverage, so it's all very enjoyable," he said.

They perform at the Government House open day twice a year, the annual Fairbridge Festival and can be booked for functions.

Please phone 9227 9524 for more information.