
THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN

"Where's Hartley?" and "who was Morris?" you may well ask, as many do. Well basically it's us - The Hartley Morris Men. The side (Morris terminology for team) was formed in the village of Hartley (near Longfield) during 1952 by members of the Stansted Morris Men who had existed since 1934, but the outbreak of war in 1939 had curtailed their activities. Thus, in the style of Dr Who, the side metamorphically transformed itself adopting the patriotic colours of Red, White and Blue in honour of our present Queen's ascension to the throne and we have continued dancing the Morris in and around Kent ever since although we are now based in Wrotham.

The origins of what we do however are less easily explained and to a certain extent shrouded in mystery. References to Morris Dancing in England date back to the Middle Ages when, even then, its origins were unrecorded and therefore could perhaps be described as an ancient English ritual from time "immortal". In fact one immortal time you can see us is at dawn (5.30am) on May 1st when we awaken the summer sun by performing dances that will ensure fertile crops and a fruitful harvest (if you believe all that old nonsense). Some of our present dancers also date from immortal times; many joining in the early 1970's and even late 60's, so it is with great relief that we have now recruited a nucleus of dancers from the younger generation and their public initiation may be seen on the front cover.

Basically we enjoy what we do and hope you, the audience, also enjoy watching the live performance of a truly English tradition that pre-dates Shakespeare's plays and is one of the few activities that even our present Government has deemed exempt from licensing.

SING UP THE SUN



The Hartley Morris Singers have released a CD to mark the 50th anniversary of Hartley's formation.

The songs are drawn from new and old, any style they enjoy.

"It would be impossible to comment on all the singers in Hartley. But they produce a fantastic atmosphere, which comes from a love of the songs and a need to please their audience."

To buy a copy of the CD see any Hartley Man or send £10 plus £1 p&xp to the address below.

We hope that you will share in the good luck which the Morris brings by contributing to our 'bag'. If you want to know any more about the Morris, any of our dancers will be pleased to tell you, or alternatively, why not visit our web site at:

www.hartleymorris.org.uk

We practise in Wrotham at the George's Hall on Thursday evenings throughout the winter months, then pop down to the Rose & Crown. If you are interested in joining the Morris, why not come along and join us – you can be assured of a warm welcome.

**39 College Road, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 6SX**
or E-Mail bagman@hartleymorris.org.uk

Or Phone Brian, our Squire on
01 322 272168

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2006 PROGRAMME

Sunday 1st May - Beltane Tour
5.30 a.m. The Coldrum Stones

The rest of the day will be spent on the Spa Valley
Railway, Tunbridge Wells for their Morris Day.

10.40 a.m. Groombridge Station
11.50 a.m. Tunbridge Wells, West Station
12.00 noon High Rocks Station
2.55 p.m. Tunbridge Wells, West Station

May

4th 8.30 p.m. Old House, Ightham
11th 8.30 p.m. White Swan, Ash
9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted

Saturday 13 May
Westminster Morris Men, Day of Dance.

18th 8.30 p.m. Swan, West Peckham
9.30 p.m. Queen's Head, Mereworth
25th 8.30 p.m. Sevenoaks, Walking Tour
start Chequers, end Anchor

June

1st 8.30 p.m. Two Brewers, Hadlow
9.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Hadlow
7th 8.30 p.m. Cobham, Walking Tour
(Wed) with Invicta, Motley &
St Clements Clog
15th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt
9.30 p.m. Bricklayer's Arms, Chipstead
22nd 8.30 p.m. Man of Kent, East Peckham
9.30 p.m. Bush, Blackbird & Thrush,
East Peckham
29th 8.30 p.m. Buck's Head, Godden Green
9.30 p.m. 5 Bells, Seal

July

5th 8.30 p.m. Woolpack, Benover
(Wed) with Weald of Kent &
East Kent Morris Men



Hartley Ale

June 9th to 11th

During the weekend of our Annual Ale
we are host to other Morris Men's teams
from all over the country.

We are most grateful for the support given by the
best local breweries in our area and in recognition
we will be touring some of their finest outlets.

You are invited to join us to enjoy a true taste of
the Kentish countryside at it's best.

Goacher's Tour - Saturday June 10th
10.00 a.m. Goacher's Brewery
11.00 a.m. Oak on the Green, Bearsted
12.00 noon Man of Kent, Rochester
1.00 p.m. King George V, Brompton
3.30 p.m. Chatham Historic Dockyard
Larkin's Tour - Saturday June 10th
10.00 a.m. Larkin's Brewery
11.00 a.m. Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath
12.00 noon Bottle House, Smarts Hill
1.00 p.m. Beacon, Rusthall
4.00 p.m. Tunbridge Wells West Station
4.45 p.m. High Rocks

Tours combine for mass display-
6.00 p.m. Swan, West Peckham

Sunday June 11th

11.00 a.m. Ightham Mote
1.00 p.m. Massed Display - Wrotham
Village Centre

Sunday 30th April - Rochester Sweeps Festival
Singing in the Gordon Hotel from 12.30 to 2.30 p.m.

July 21-23 - 308th Meeting of the Morris Ring,
Weston Super Mare, hosted by Mendip Morris Men.

Saturday 1st October
Tenterden Folk Festival



Shepherd Neame Tour
Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

Saturday July 9th

10.00 a.m. Rose, Herne Bay
11.00 a.m. Clock Tower, Herne Bay
12.00 noon Market Square, Faversham
1.00 p.m. Three Mariners, Oare
3.30 p.m. TBA
4.30 p.m. TBA
6.00 p.m. Gate, Marshside

Sunday July 10th

12.00 noon Gate, Marshside

13th 8.30 p.m. Chaser, Shipbourne
9.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
19th 8.30 p.m. Blue Bell, Beltring
(Wed) 9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford
With Ravensbourne MM.
27th 8.00 p.m. The Pier, Upper Upnor
9.00 p.m. King's Arms, Upper Upnor

August

Friday 11th to Friday 18th August
Broadstairs Folk Week

3rd 8.30 p.m. Otford Walking Tour
24th 8.30 p.m. Stags Head, Tonbridge
9.30 p.m. Ivy House, Tonbridge
31st 8.30 p.m. Leicester Arms, Penshurst
9.30 p.m. Greyhound, Charcott

September

7th 8.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

26th December - Boxing Day
12.00 noon Black Horse, Stansted
1.15 p.m. Rose and Crown, Wrotham