The Stansted Morris Men were formed in 1934 but unfortunately 5 years later Mr Hitler's attempt at world domination put an end to their activities. However at the end of hostilities, the Morris was rejuvenated locally when former Stansted men metamorphosed as The Hartley Morris Men in 1952. Being a patriotic lot the colours Red, White and Blue were chosen to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation. We are now based in Wrotham but still continue to wear our country's colours and this year celebrate 55 years in our present form.

And how old is the Morris itself you may well ask. Suffice to say that when Sir Humphrey Gilbert set sail to lay claim to Newfoundland in 1583, the crew included 'Morris dancers, Hobby horse, and many like conceits to delight the Savage people'- well, we did our best!

So where is the connection to the Hartley Morris Men? It is thus; the skipper of Sir Humphrey's vessel was none other than the infamous Captain Clayton, hero of nonsensical Kentish Folk tales and an inherent pyromaniac. His descendants thus not being allowed upon wooden vessels were destined to ply the Medway, transporting cannon with a fleet of concrete barges and, each year, these vessels gained notoriety by overwhelming the Boy Scouts' rafts at local Dragon boat races. In their honour we now enact not only the slaying of the fiery dragon on St George's Day but also awaken the fiery sun at dawn on May 1st.

Furthermore, we start the season with one of our favourite pubs having been burnt down (rebuilt before we dance there we hope) and during the summer a smoking ban will be imposed. Meanwhile what do peaceable Morris Men do - well, not only consume copious amounts of liquid, fire's deadly enemy, but also help maintain the river Medway's steady flow.

So not only do the Hartley Morris Men uphold tradition but we strive to reduce our carbon footprints by dancing lightly and only consuming beer that is served no more than an arm's length from our bodies.

And what better way to end our season this year than to join forces with our younger neighbours? The Ravensbourne Morris Men whose founder, Geoff Metcalf, helped our pre-war predecessors regroup, and The White Star Sword Dancers, a product of Hartley's limbs in 1986 and now coming of age.

GEOFF METCALF RING MEETING

TONBRIDGE

THE 312th MEETING OF
THE MORRIS RING

31st AUGUST - 2nd SEPTEMBER 2007

Jointly hosted by Hartley Morris Men,
Ravensbourne Morris Men and White Star Sword.
Based in Tonbridge, Kent.

Massed Displays:

Saturday 1st September

10.00 a.m. Week Street, Maidstone
4.00 p.m. The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells

Sunday 2nd September

11.15 a.m. Tonbridge High Street to the Castle
12.00 noon Tonbridge Castle Lawn

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

We practise in Wrotham at St 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

Or Phone Brian, our Squire on
01 322 272168

THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN

2007 PROGRAMME

Tuesday 1st May - Beltane Tour

5.30 a.m.	The Coldrum Stones
10.00 a.m.	Southfleet Vilage
11.00 a.m.	Robert Pocock, Gravesend
12.00 noon	Green Man, Hodsell Street
1.30 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

Sunday 6th May - Rochester Sweeps' Festival
Singing in the Gordon Hotel from
12.30 to 2.30 p.m.

May

10th	8.30 p.m.	Tonbridge, Walking Tour start Chequers end Ivy House
17th	8.30 p.m.	White Swan, Ash
	9.30 p.m.	Black Horse, Stansted

Sunday 20th May - Spa Valley Railway Spring Gala
Starting 10.00 a.m.

24th	8.30 p.m.	Leicester Arms, Penshurst
	9.30 p.m.	Greyhound, Charcott
31st	8.30 p.m.	Harrow, Knockholt
	9.30 p.m.	Change of Horses, Farnborough

June

6th (Wed)	8.30 p.m.	Cobham Walking Tour with Invicta, Motley & St Clements Clog
14th	8.30 p.m.	Man of Kent, East Peckham
	9.30 p.m.	Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham
21st	8.00 p.m.	The Pier, Lower Upnor
	9.00 p.m.	King's Arms, Upper Upnor
28th	8.30 p.m.	Buck's Head, Godden Green
	9.30 p.m.	White Rock, Underriver

Sunday 8 July - Tour de France
Tonbridge Town Centre 10am to 3pm

Hartley Ale

June 8th to 10th

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

Goacher's Tour - Saturday June 9th

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 Including Nelson Brewery

Larkin's Tour - Saturday June 9th

10.00 a.m.	Larkin's Brewery
11.00 a.m.	Kentish Horse, Markbeech
12.00 noon	Bottle House, Smarts Hill
1.00 p.m.	Beacon, Rusthall
4.00 p.m.	High Rocks
4.40 p.m.	Tunbridge Wells, West Station

Tours combine for mass display-

6.00 p.m.	Swan, West Peckham

Sunday June 10th

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

July

5th	8.30 p.m.	Two Brewers, Hadlow
	9.30 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Hadlow
12th	8.30 p.m.	Ivy Leaf, Dartford
	9.30 p.m.	Malt Shovel, Dartford
19th	8.30 p.m.	Blue Bell, Beltring
	9.30 p.m.	Chequers, Laddingford
26th	8.30 p.m.	Otford Walking Tour Pond, Bull & Crown

Shepherd Neame Tour
Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

Saturday July 21st

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.	Coach & Horses, Whitstable
3.30 p.m.	Marine Hotel, Tankerton
4.30 p.m.	Share & Coulter, Greenhill
6.00 p.m.	Gate, Marshside

Sunday July 22nd

12.00 noon	Gate, Marshside

August

Friday 10th to Friday 17th August
Broadstairs Folk Week

2nd	8.30 p.m.	Chaser, Shipbourne
	9.30 p.m.	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
8th (Weds)	8.30 p.m.	Castle Inn, Castle Hill Brenchley as guests of Weald of Kent
23th	8.30 p.m.	Sevenoaks Walking Tour start Chequers end Anchor
29th (Weds)	8.30 p.m.	Queens Head, Mereworth with Kettlebridge Clog

September

6th	8.30 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

Saturday 1st October
Tenterden Folk Festival

26th December - Boxing Day

12.00 noon	Black Horse, Stansted
1.15 p.m.	Rose and Crown, Wrotham