

So, what will you be doing on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Rumour at the time of going to print suggests that this will be the date of a general election. Regular readers of this panel will know that, since 1935, all general elections and most by-elections have been held on a Thursday, allegedly because this particular day of the week was thought most likely to be alcohol-free.

We in Hartley do our best to refute this sad slur on the day of the week which is sacred to Thunor, the English thunder god, by dancing throughout the summer season on this very day at pleasant, though often obscure, pubs in our Kentish homeland – all of which probably explains why we often get plagued by political shenanigans, sober audiences and thunderstorms.

Therefore, on May 5<sup>th</sup>. 2005, whatever the politicians may get up to, we will be starting our 53<sup>rd</sup>. season of regular Thursday evening performances. So, if you see flashes of red, white and blue on this date, please note we are NOT campaigning for UKIP, but simply celebrating the fact that we came together in the year our present Queen ascended to the throne. Haven't we both done well to have kept going for so long since then!

### And now for something completely different!

As I guess you will know, when people who write this sort of rubbish run out of original ideas, they tend to fill up the odd spaces with a quotation or two. In the folk world, the one most frequently fallen back upon is "One should try everything once, except incest and folk dancing". The trouble is, to whom should this profound statement be attributed? In the early days Thomas Beecham was the favourite, but latterly he has most commonly been superseded by Arnold Bax. It came to us as somewhat of a surprise therefore when, in a recent edition of "Quote, Unquote", it was stated that Bax's widow had refuted this suggestion, and that in his book "Farewell, My Youth" the great composer had written that it was a "sympathetic Scotsman" who had actually said "You should make a point of trying every experience once, etc."

There, didn't that fill up this programme's little gap nicely!

## 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&p 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](http://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](mailto:bagman@hartleymorris.org.uk)**

Or Phone Brian, our Squire on  
**01 322 272168**

# THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN



## 2005 PROGRAMME

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

SPA Valley Railway Morris Day  
10.00 a.m. Onwards, dancing on and around  
the SPA Valley Railway, Tunbridge Wells  
as part of their Morris Day Event with a  
lunchtime session at The High Rocks Hotel.

Monday 2nd May - Rochester Sweeps Festival  
Hartley Singers join forces with The Hot Rats.  
12.30 to 2.30 p.m. Gordon Hotel

#### May

5th 8.30 p.m. Ivy Leaf, Dartford  
9.30 p.m. Malt Shovel, Dartford  
12th 8.30 p.m. White Swan, Ash  
9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted  
19th 8.30 p.m. Swan, West Peckham  
9.30 p.m. Queen's Head, Mereworth  
26th 8.30 p.m. George & Dragon, Tudeley  
9.30 p.m. Dovecote, Capel

#### June

2nd 8.30 p.m. Two Brewers, Hadlow  
9.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Hadlow  
8th 8.30 p.m. Cobham, Walking Tour  
(Wed) with Invicta, Motley &  
St Clements Clog  
16th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt  
9.30 p.m. Bricklayer's Arms, Chipstead  
23rd 8.00 p.m. Buck's Head, Godden Green  
9.00 p.m. 5 Bells, Seal  
30th 8.30 p.m. Chaser Inn, Shipbourne  
9.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green

#### July

6th 8.30 p.m. Walking Tour of Gravesend  
(Wed) with Wadard MM and Friends



### Hartley Ale

June 11th & 12th

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 at these establishments to  
enjoy not only the displays but also a true taste of  
the Kentish countryside at it's best.

Goacher's Tour - Saturday June 11th  
10.15 a.m. Goacher's Brewery  
11.15 a.m. Swan, Sutton Valence  
12.15 noon Dering Arms, Pluckley  
1.15 p.m. Worlds Wonder, Warehorne  
3.30 p.m. Woodchurch

#### Wedding Celebrations

Larkin's Tour - Saturday June 11th  
10.15 a.m. Larkin's Brewery  
11.15 a.m. Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath  
12.15 noon Bottle House, Smarts Hill  
1.00 p.m. Chafford Arms, Fordcombe  
with Ravensbourne MM  
4.00 p.m. Groombridge Place Gardens

#### Tours combine for mass display-

6.00 p.m. Swan, West Peckham

#### Sunday June 12th

10.45 a.m. Ightham Mote  
12.00 noon 26th Wrotham Festival of  
Steam & Transport  
1.15 p.m. Massed Display - Wrotham  
Village Centre

The times shown in this programme are English Morris Time (EMT).  
It's unlikely that we will ever appear earlier than stated but thanks to  
the liquid generosity of many landlords we may well be slightly late.



### Shepherd Neame Tour

Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

#### Saturday July 9th

10.30 a.m. Clock Tower, Herne Bay  
12.00 noon Market Square, Faversham  
1.00 p.m. Three Mariners, Oare  
4.30 p.m. Grove Ferry Inn, Upstreet  
6.00 p.m. Gate, Marshside

#### Sunday July 10th

12.00 noon Gate, Marshside

14th 8.30 p.m. Upper Upnor Walking Tour  
21st 8.30 p.m. Blue Bell, Beltring  
9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford  
26th 8.00 p.m. Castle Inn, Chiddingstone  
(Tue) 9.00 p.m. Hare & Hounds, Bidborough  
As guests of Ravensbourne MM

#### August

Friday 5th to Friday 12th August  
Broadstairs Folk Week

18th 8.30 p.m. Man of Kent, East Peckham  
9.30 p.m. Bush, Blackbird & Thrush,  
East Peckham  
25th 8.30 p.m. Stags Head, Tonbridge  
9.30 p.m. Ivy House, Tonbridge

#### September

1st 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