

The Morris is an ancient form of folk dance performed by men only. It is almost certainly of pre-Christian origin, derived from pagan rituals of fertility and magic. Similar forms of dance are found in Europe and Africa. In England three main styles exist of which the chief is found around the Cotswold Hills.

The Morris is essentially a ceremonial show dance requiring from the performers a considerable amount of experience and practice. Performance of Morris is traditionally associated with seasons of the year and especially May Day and Whitsun when the springtime renewal of life is celebrated. It is traditional for teams to collect funds when they dance to help cover travelling expenses and local charities.

In bygone days each village or district developed its own tradition with a distinctive style of dancing and repertoire of dances. Dances recur in different traditions with variation in the figures, steps, hand movement and time. About twelve distinct traditions survive, a few of which are still represented by teams with an unbroken history dating back to time immemorial. Most traditions were narrowly saved from extinction through the energy and enthusiasm of Cecil Sharp, the great collector of folk songs and dances, who in the early part of this century noted down tunes and dances collected from elderly gentlemen who had been Morris Dancers in their youth.

The Hartley Morris Men were formed in 1952 under the direction of the late Mr. P. Sephton, a wellknown Morris Man. The red, white and blue trimmings to the costumes commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

HARTLEY



MORRIS

MEN

PROGRAMME 1970 - EVERY THURSDAY

May 28th	Hartley Green	8.30 p.m.			
	"The Ship" Southfleet	9.15 p.m.			
			July 9th	Hartley Fete	8.30 p.m.
June 4th	"The Cricketers" Meopham	8.30 p.m.		"Rising Sun" Fawkham	9.15 p.m.
	"The Ship" Cobham	9.15 p.m.			
			July 16th	"Red Lion" Swanley Village	8.30 p.m.
June 11th	"The Angel" Addington	8.30 p.m.		"The Ship" Puddledock	9.15 p.m.
	"The George" Trottscliffe	9.15 p.m.			
			July 23rd	"George & Dragon" Ightham	8.30 p.m.
June 19th	"The Plough" Lynsford	8.30 p.m.		"The Plough" Everham	9.15 p.m.
	Otford Green	9.15 p.m.			
			July 30th	"The Golden Lion" Luddesdown	8.30 p.m.
June 25th	"Kings Head" Offham	8.30 p.m.		"The Cock Inn" Luddesdown	9.15 p.m.
	"The Swan" West Peckham	9.15 p.m.			
			Sept. 10th	"The Bull" Farningham	
July 2nd	"Queens Head" Downe	8.30 p.m.			
	"Old Jail" Biggin Hill	9.15 p.m.			

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