
CECIL SHARP CENTENARY TOUR

DECEMBER 26TH

By the time you get to this side of the programme, millennium fever will be reaching a climax. You may be worried about aircraft falling from the sky or your video recorder missing out on the millionth edition of Coronation Street but – for Morris aficionados – today is the more relevant anniversary date, marking as it does the centenary of the birth of Morris Dancing as we know it today.

Although spring and summer are the normal seasons for the Morris, it was on Boxing Day, 1899 – one hundred years ago – that a traditional Morris side in Headington, near Oxford, danced in a local cottage garden, and were seen by chance by the musicologist Cecil Sharp. Inspired by what he heard and saw that day, Sharp spent most of the rest of his life collecting, recording and teaching the dances and tunes of his English homeland.

As knowledge of the dances spread and enthusiasm increased, a number of revivalist Morris Clubs came into existence in areas well away from the original (mainly Cotswold) villages. The one of these most relevant to the present Hartley Morris Men was in Stansted, where a team was formed in 1934, meeting in Goodmans Barn, a few hundred yards down the road from the site of our first stand today, which is :-

12 Noon The Black Horse, Stansted.

The Stansted Morris Men flourished until the Second World War put an end to all such activities. In 1952, however, several veterans of the Stansted Morris got together with more recent enthusiasts to form what we now know as the Hartley Morris Men. For the past 21 years our headquarters has been at the site of our final stand today, which is :-

1.15 p.m. The Rose and Crown, Wrotham.

Our tour today therefore embraces our history, both in the past and in the present, whilst at the same time acknowledging the fact that if Cecil Sharp had not happened to be where he was, when he was, we would probably not be where we are today.

THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN

When we were recently researching an article for the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Guide, we came across the interesting fact 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.

When on such occasions the dancing coincides with the voting, we are often asked what Party we favour (our colours being Red, White and Blue) - to which question we usually give the witty reply "the one we're going to hold in the pub after we've finished messing around out here". This is very true, because the Hartley Morris Men consider the get-together in the final pub after the dancing outside has ended to be an essential part of the overall evening's entertainment.

If you want to know any more about us, and you are technically in the 21st century, why not visit our web site at:

<http://members.aol.com/hartleymen/HMM.html>

If not, you will find some lovely piccies of us in the 'Hartley Corner' of the Rose & Crown, Wrotham (with the added bonus of better beer than you will get over the internet). If all else fails, either send a SAE to:-

139 Farleigh Hill, Tovil, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 6RQ
or E-Mail tonytomlin@aol.com

Or Phone Brian, our Squire on
01 322 272168

THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN



1999 PROGRAMME

Saturday May 1st - Beltane

- 5.30 a.m. The Coldrum Stones
- 10.00 a.m. Southfleet Village
- 11.30 a.m. New Ash Green Beer Festival
- 1.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

Monday 3rd May - Rochester Sweeps' Festival

May

- 6th 8.30 p.m. Earl Grey, Old Perry Street, Gravesend
- 13th 8.30 p.m. Stag's Head, Tonbridge
- 9.30 p.m. Ivy House, Tonbridge

May 15th & 16th - Leeds Castle
Festival of Food & Wine

- 20th 8.30 p.m. Duke's Head, Dunton Green
- 9.30 p.m. Miner's Arms, Dunton Green
- 27th 8.30 p.m. Walnut Tree, East Farleigh
- 9.30 p.m. Royal Paper Mill, Tovil

June

- 1st 8.30 p.m. Brown Jug, Upchurch
(Tuesday) (with Bishop Gundulfs)
- 10th 8.30 p.m. Hooden Horse, Tonbridge
- 9.30 p.m. Royal Oak, Haysden
- 17th 8.30 p.m. Leicester Arms, Penshurst
- 9.30 p.m. Greyhound, Charcott

Saturday June 19th
Broadstairs Dickens Festival

- 24th 8.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Gn
- 9.30 p.m. Papermaker's Arms, Plaxtol

THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN
1999
PROGRAMME

Hartley Ale

June 5th & 6th

Over this special weekend, your very own Hartley Morris Men are joined by guest teams from all over the civilised world.

- Squire's Tour - Saturday June 5th
T.B.A. In and around Kent
- Bagman's Tour - Saturday June 5th
T.B.A. In and around Kent
- 6.00 p.m. Massed display by teams from both tours at The Swan, West Peckham

Sunday June 6th

12.30 p.m. Massed Display - Wrotham Village Centre

December 26th - Boxing Day
Cecil Sharp Centenary Tour : See Back Page.

July

- 1st 8.30 p.m. Black Lion, Hartley
- 9.30 p.m. Rising Sun, Fawkham Green
- 8th 8.30 p.m. Raffles, Yalding
- 9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford
- 15th 8.30 p.m. Green Man, Hodsoil Street
- 9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted
(with St. Clements Clogs)

Shepherd Neame Tour

Saturday July 17th

- 10.00 a.m. Faversham Market Square
- 12.00 noon Diver's Arms, Herne Bay
- 1.30 p.m. Gate, Marshside
- 4.30 p.m. Clock Tower, Herne Bay
- 7.30 p.m. Plough, Lewson Street
- 8.30 p.m. Anchor, Abbey Street, Faversham

Sunday July 18th

- 1.00 p.m. The Sun, Faversham

- 21st 8.30 p.m. Lion Hotel & Chequers,
(Wednesday) Farningham
(with Wadard Morris Men)
- 29th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt
- 9.30 p.m. Wheatsheaf, Kemsing

August

- 26th 8.30 p.m. Prince of Guinea, Gillingham
- 9.30 p.m. King's Arms, Upper Upnor

September

- 2nd 8.00 p.m. Henry Simmonds,
Borough Green
- 9.00 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham