



The Hartley Morris Men

Nobody really knows just how old the tradition of Morris Dancing is because up until about a hundred years ago virtually nothing had been written down about it. Like most of our folk culture, the dances were handed down through the generations by word of mouth since its practitioners, ordinary working people, couldn't write. The people who could write, the gentry and the learned were only concerned with recording history as it affected them and what the peasants got up to was generally considered to be vulgar and unimportant.

There are occasional references to Morris Dancing in Shakespeare and also in old court records when dancers have been hauled up before the authorities for crimes like drunkenness or making a din in the streets. So we know that men have been dancing the Morris for hundreds of years but we have very little reliable information about how or why it was performed. We do know that it was usually performed once a year, at Whitsun, and that it was only danced by men. Some think that the dance may once have been part of an old pagan springtime fertility ritual and that the bells and hankies were to scare away evil spirits.

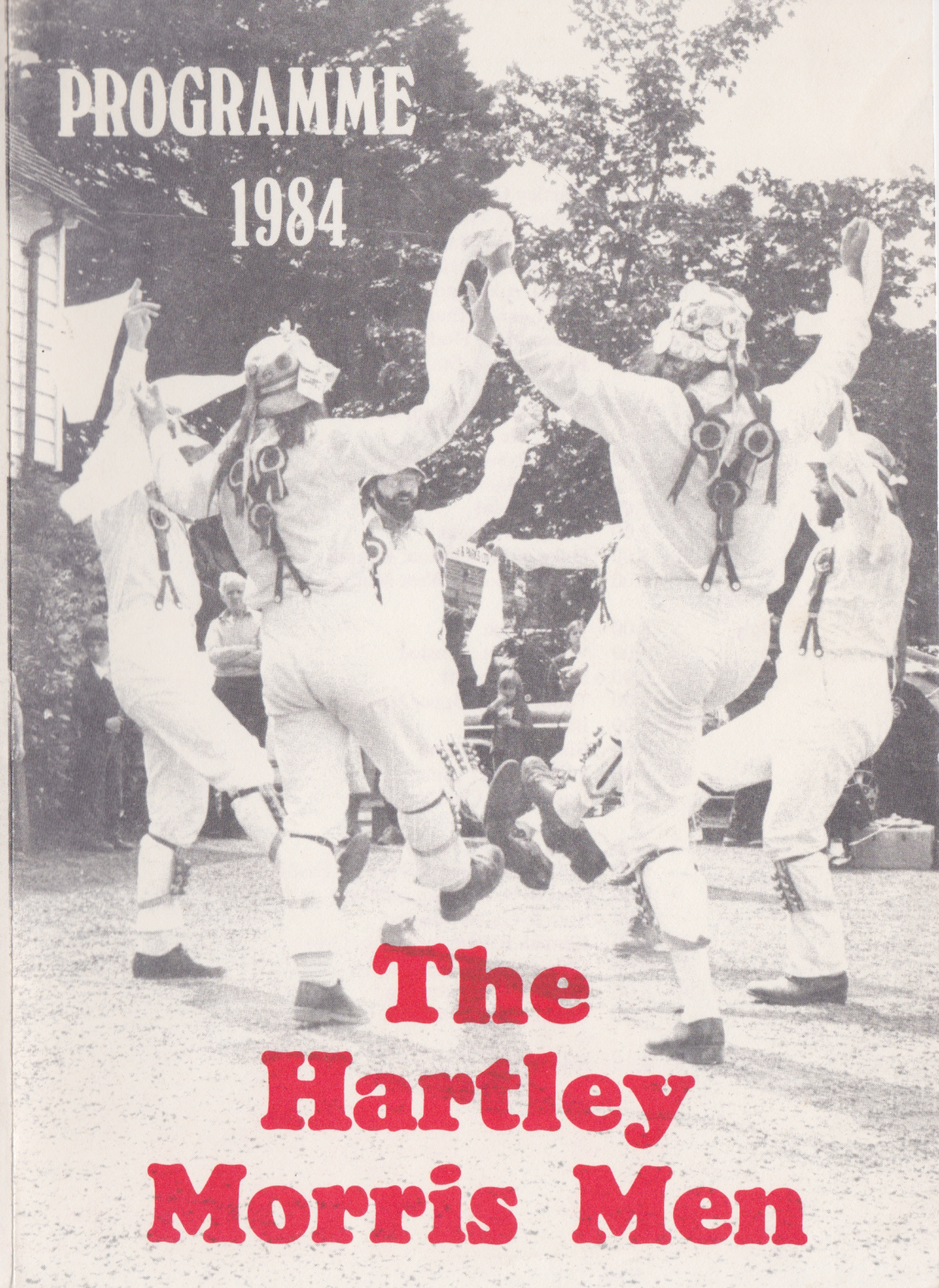
It seems that for many years the tradition of Morris Dancing died out completely in Kent, but we do know of many 'revival' sides that danced in the county at around the turn of the century. There was a side at Meopham, but they disbanded at the outbreak of the First World War. It may have been partially due to this interest in Morris in this area that another side was formed in 1934 in Stansted. In 1939 war again put an end to the dancing but in 1952 some of the Stansted men got together and formed the Hartley Morris. Every summer since then we have danced in the villages of North Kent keeping alive this ancient tradition.

We are always interested in new members, so if you fancy joining us, rather than just being a spectator, drop us a line.

Bagman. Peter Burren, Corner Cottage, Romney Street, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Tel: Otford 3283

PROGRAMME

1984



The Hartley Morris Men

THURSDAY EVENING TOURS

May	3	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Anchor & Hope, Stansted
	10	8.00	Plough, Ivy Hatch
		9.00	Old House at Home, Ightham
	17	8.00	Angel, Addington
	9.00	Red Lion, Offham	
24	8.00	Green Man, Hodsoll Street	
	9.00	Black Horse, Stansted	
June	7	8.00	Wheatsheaf, Bough Beech
		9.00	Cock, Ide Hill
	14	8.00	Leather Bottle, Cobham
		9.00	Golden Lion, Luddesdown
	21	8.00	5 Bells, Seal
	9.00	Vine, Sevenoaks	
28	8.00	Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh	
	9.00	Startled Saint, West Malling	
July	5	8.00	Westerham
		9.00	White Hart, Brasted
	12	8.00	Stag, Wainscott
		9.00	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor
	19	8.00	Bull, Yalding
	9.00	Blue Bell, Beltring	
26	8.00	4 Elms, Four Elms	
	9.00	Castle Inn, Chiddingstone	
August	2	8.00	Man of Kent, East Peckham
		9.00	Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham
	9	8.00	George & Dragon, Ightham
		9.00	Star & Garter, Basted
	23	8.00	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
	9.00	Queens Head, Mereworth	
30	8.00	Wheatsheaf, Kemsing	
	9.00	Chequers, Heaverham	
Sept	6	8.30	Rochester

MAY DAY TOUR - 1st MAY

5.30 a.m.	Coldrum Stones
10.30 a.m.	Southfleet Village
12 noon	Sevenoaks Town
1.00 p.m.	Greyhound, Charcott
7.00 p.m.	Plaxtol Village
8.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

10.30 a.m.	Pembury Green
11.30 a.m.	Brecknock Arms, Bells Yew Green
12.30 p.m.	Greyhound, Wadhurst
1.30 p.m.	Bull, Three Legged Cross
4.00 p.m.	Tonbridge Cottage Hospital
7.00 p.m.	George & Dragon, Speldhurst
8.00 p.m.	Northfield House, Speldhurst

THE ALE - JUNE 8th-10th

SQUIRE'S TOUR

10.30 a.m.	Dorset Street, Sevenoaks
11.30 a.m.	Greyhound, Charcott
12.30 p.m.	Castle Inn, Chiddingstone
3.30 p.m.	Penshurst Place

BAGMAN'S TOUR

10.30 a.m.	Black Lion, Southfleet
11.30 a.m.	Railway, Higham
12.30 p.m.	Staff of Life, Cooling Street
3.30 p.m.	High Street, Rochester

FOREMAN'S TOUR

10.30 a.m.	Swanley Town
11.30 a.m.	Shoreham Village
12.30 p.m.	Woodman, Otford
4.00 p.m.	Lullingstone Castle

Massed Displays

Saturday 9th June	12.30 p.m.	Wrotham
Sunday 10th June	6.30 p.m.	Wrotham

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR - JULY 13th-15th

FRIDAY 13th

Meet at the Sun, Faversham

SATURDAY 14th

10.30 a.m.	Market Square, Faversham
12 noon	Anchor, Abbey Street
1.00 p.m.	Dove, Dargate
4.00 p.m.	Herne Bay Front
7.00 p.m.	Alma, Painters Forstal
8.00 p.m.	Plough, Lewson Street
9.00 p.m.	Sun, Faversham

SUNDAY 15th

12.30 p.m. Chequers, Doddington

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

11.00 a.m.	Star, Matfield
12 noon	Vine, Goudhurst
1.00 p.m.	Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown
4.00 p.m.	Bodiam Castle
6.00 p.m.	Royal Oak Hotel, Hawkhurst
7.30 p.m.	Castle, Castle Hill, Nr Brenchley

BOXING DAY

10.00 a.m.	Hartley Green
11.00 a.m.	Anchor & Hope, Stansted
12 noon	Black Horse, Stansted
1.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham