



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.

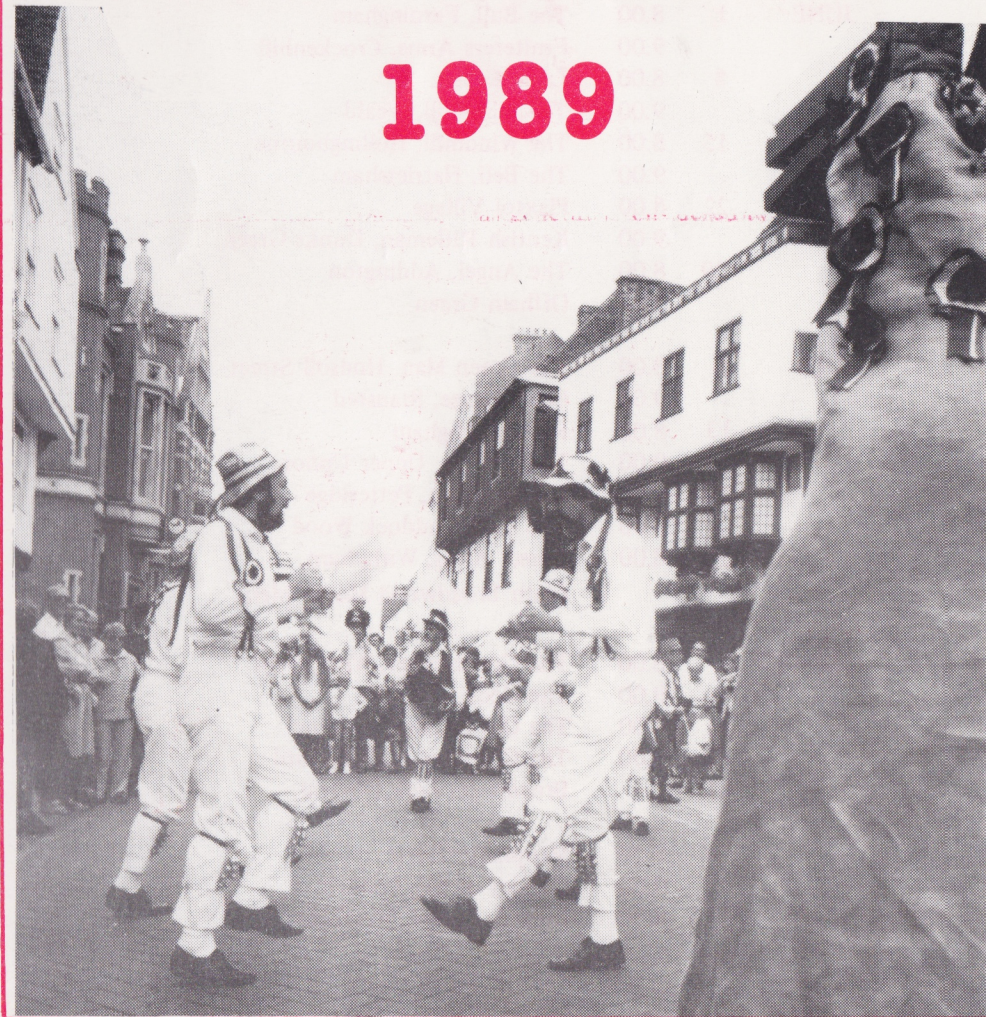
It seems that for many years the tradition of Morris Dancing died out completely in Kent, but we do know of many 'revival' sides that danced in the county at around the turn of the century. There was a side at Meopham, but they disbanded at the outbreak of the First World War. It may have been partially 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.

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1989



THURSDAY EVENING TOURS

MAY	4	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Hope & Anchor, Stansted
	11	8.00	Royal Oak, Haysden
		9.00	Hare & Hounds, Bidborough
	18	8.00	The Chequers, West Farleigh
		9.00	Walnut Tree, East Farleigh
25	8.00	The Harrow, Ightham Common	
	9.00	The Chequers, Heaverham	
JUNE	1	8.00	The Bull, Farningham
		9.00	Fruiterers Arms, Crockenhill
	8	8.00	Leigh Green
		9.00	The Windmill, Weald
	15	8.00	The Windmill, Hollingbourne
		9.00	The Bell, Harrietsham
	22	8.00	Plaxtol Village
		9.00	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
	29	8.00	The Angel, Addington
		9.00	Offham Green
JULY	6	8.00	The Green Man, Hodsoil Street
		9.00	Black Horse, Stansted
	13	8.00	Railway, Higham
		9.00	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor
	20	8.00	The Hopbine, Petteridge
		9.00	Elm Tree, Paddock Wood
27	8.00	Dorset Arms, Withyham, (with Broadwood Morris Men)	
AUGUST	3	8.00	The Grasshopper, Westerham
		9.00	The Cock, Ide Hill
	10	8.00	The Old Anchor, Yalding
		9.00	The Chequers, Laddingford
	17		Broadstairs Folk Festival
24	8.00	Meopham Green	
	9.00	Darnley Arms, Cobham	
	31	8.30	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

MAY DAY TOUR - 1st MAY

5.30am	Coldrum Stones
10.30am	Gravesend
12.30pm	The Victoria, Cliffe Medway Sculls
7.00pm	Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh
8.00pm	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY TOUR - 29th MAY

11.00am	The Star, Matfield
12.00noon	The Elephants Head, Hooks Green
1.00pm	The Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown Tonbridge Cottage Hospital Fete
7.00pm	The White Hart, Claygate
8.30pm	The Addlestead Tavern, East Peckham

HARTLEY ALE TOUR

SQUIRES TOUR - SATURDAY 3rd JUNE

10.30am	Hare & Hounds, Bidborough
11.30am	Chafford Arms, Fordcombe
12.30pm	Northfield House, Speldhurst

FOREMANS TOUR - SATURDAY 3rd JUNE

10.30am	Gravesend
11.30am	The Green Man, Hodsoil Street
12.30pm	The Vigo, Trottiscliffe

BAGMANS TOUR - SATURDAY 3rd JUNE

10.30am	The Swan, West Peckham
11.30am	The Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham
12.30pm	The Chequers, Laddingford

MASSED DISPLAYS

Saturday 3rd June	6.00 p.m.	West Malling
Sunday 4th June	12.30 p.m.	Wrotham.

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR

SATURDAY 15th JULY

10.30am	Faversham Market Place
11.30am	Sheps Social Club
1.00pm	The Gate, Marshside
7.00pm	The Dove, Dargate
8.00pm	The Three Horse Shoes, Hernhill
9.00pm	The Sun, Faversham

SUNDAY 16th JULY

1.00pm	The Alma, Painters Forstal
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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 28th AUGUST

11.00am	The Red Lion, Biddenden
12.30pm	The Wool Pack, Brookland Evening Tour of Rye

BOXING DAY

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