

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



EVERY THURSDAY

JUNE 5TH HARTLEY GREEN 8.30 p.m.  
LONGFIELD HILL 9.15 p.m.

JUNE 12TH "THE SHIP", 8.30 p.m.  
Cobham  
"RAILWAY TAVERN",  
Sole Street 9.15 p.m.

JUNE 19TH "THE ANGEL", 8.30 p.m.  
Addington  
"THE GEORGE",  
Trosley 9.15 p.m.

JUNE 26th "GREEN MAN", 8.30 p.m.  
Hodsoll Street  
"WHITE SWAN",  
Ash 9.15 p.m.

JULY 3RD "FIVE BELLS", 8.30 p.m.  
Halling  
"COCK INN"  
Luddesdown 9.15 p.m.

JULY 10TH HARTLEY 8.30 p.m.  
(Fete week)  
LANGAFEL CLOSE,  
Longfield 9.15 p.m.

JULY 17TH "THE SHIP",  
Green St. Green 8.30 p.m.  
"THE SHIP",  
Southfleet 9.15 p.m.

JULY 24TH "FIGHTING COCKS",  
Horton Kirby 8.30 p.m.  
"THE BULL",  
Farningham 9.15 p.m.

JULY 31ST MEMORIAL HALL,  
Platt 8.15 p.m.  
"THE CHASER",  
Shipbourne 9.00 p.m.

SQUIRE:

George Crouch,  
"Sarum Cot",  
Longfield Avenue,  
New Barn, Kent.  
Tel: Longfield 3037.

BAGMAN:

Albert Potter,  
1, Brakefield Road,  
Southfleet,  
Nr. Gravesend, Kent

New members are always welcome - please  
contact the Squire or Bagman.