

# THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN

2004 marks the 70<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the formation of the Morris Ring – the National Association of Men's Morris and Sword Clubs, which exists to preserve and perform these traditional dances – and also of Hartley's progenitor, the late Stansted Morris Men.

Sadly, World War II put an end to all organised morris dancing in England – but, once it was over, the Morris Ring grew and prospered, and today embraces some 260 active clubs all over the civilised (i.e. beer-drinking) world.

The Stansted Morris Men, on the other hand, did not survive the war, but in 1952 they metamorphosed into the Hartley Morris Men and as such have been dancing regularly in Kent ever since. Thus it is that two years ago we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of our formation, but this year – like the Morris Ring – we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of our foundation.

For this reason our Mayday tour has particular significance. After our traditional celebration of Beltane at dawn at the Coldrum Long Barrow, we will be joined by the Wadard Morris Men who now practice in the village of Hartley from whence we originally came. Our next joint stop is Farningham where we were based throughout the 1970's and where Wadard were formed by some Hartley members who got left behind when we moved to our present base in Wrotham 25 years ago.

Lunchtime will be spent in Stansted, the village of our foundation, with a token dance outside Goodmans Barn where the Stansted Morris Men first practised. After a ritualistic blessing of the local Mayqueen, we round off the day at our 'spiritual' home, The Rose & Crown, Wrotham, having come full circle as it was in this village the Stansted Morris Men regularly danced during the 1930's (top picture, front cover).

## SING UP THE SUN



The Hartley Morris Singers have released a CD to mark the 50th anniversary of Hartley's formation.

The songs are drawn from new and old, any style they enjoy.

"It would be impossible to comment on all the singers in Hartley. But they produce a fantastic atmosphere, which comes from a love of the songs and a need to please their audience."

To buy a copy of the CD see any Hartley Man or send £10 plus £1 p&tp to the address below.

We hope that you will share in the good luck which the Morris brings by contributing to our 'bag'. If you want to know any more about the Morris, any of our dancers will be pleased to tell you, or alternatively, why not visit our web site at:

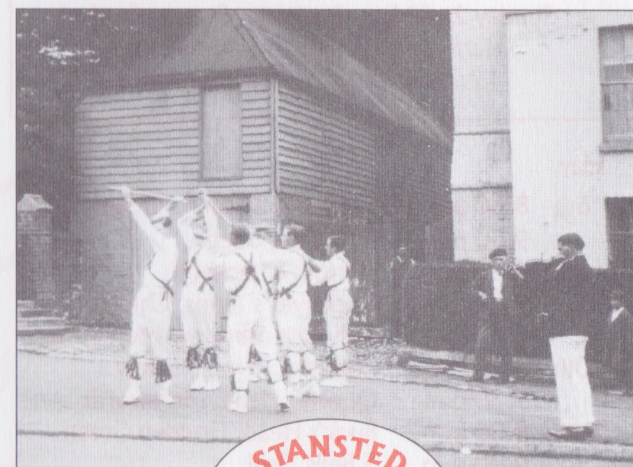
[www.hartleymorris.org.uk](http://www.hartleymorris.org.uk)

We practise in Wrotham at the George's Hall on Thursday evenings throughout the winter months, then pop down to the Rose & Crown. If you are interested in joining the Morris, why not come along and join us – you can be assured of a warm welcome.

139 Farleigh Hill, Tovil, Maidstone,  
Kent ME15 6RQ  
or E-Mail [tonytomlin@aol.com](mailto:tonytomlin@aol.com)

Or Phone Brian, our Squire on  
01 322 272168

# THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN 2004 PROGRAMME



STANSTED  
70 YEARS OF DANCE  
HARTLEY



### Saturday 1st May - Beltane Tour

Marking the 70th Birthday of Stansted Morris

- 5.30 a.m. The Coldrum Stones
- 10.00 a.m. Hartley Green
- 11.00 a.m. Pied Bull, Farningham
- 12.00 noon Black Horse, Stansted
- 2.00 p.m. Stansted May Fair
- 3.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

### Sunday 2nd May - Rochester Sweeps Festival

Hartley Singers host a Sing-a-Round

12.30 to 2.30 p.m. Gordon Hotel

#### May

- 6th 8.30 p.m. George & Dragon, Tudeley
- 9.30 p.m. Dovecote, Capel
- 13th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt
- 9.30 p.m. Bricklayer's Arms, Chipstead with Ravensbourne Morris Men
- 20th 8.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Hadlow
- 9.30 p.m. Queen's Head, Mereworth
- 27th 8.00 p.m. Buck's Head, Godden Green
- 9.00 p.m. 5 Bells, Seal

#### June

- 3rd 8.30 p.m. Bluebell, Beltring
- 9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford
- 9th 8.30 p.m. Cobham, Walking Tour (Weds)
- 17th 8.30 p.m. Ivy Leaf, Dartford
- 9.30 p.m. Malt Shovel, Dartford
- 24th 8.30 p.m. Hooden Horse, Tonbridge
- 9.30 p.m. Royal Oak, Haysden

#### July

- 1st 8.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
- 9.30 p.m. Swan, West Peckham



### Hartley Ale

June 12th & 13th

During the weekend of our Annual Ale we are host to other Morris Men's teams from all over the country.

We are most grateful for the support given by the best local breweries in our area and in recognition we will be touring some of their finest outlets. You are invited to join us at these establishments to enjoy not only the displays but also a true taste of the Kentish countryside at it's best.

#### Goacher's Tour - Saturday June 12th

- 10.30 a.m. Goacher's Brewery
- 11.15 a.m. White House, Hunton
- 12.15 noon Lord Raglan, Rabbits Cross
- 1.15 p.m. Swan, Sutton Valance
- 4.00 p.m. Museum of Kent Life, Cobtree

#### Larkin's Tour - Saturday June 12th

- 10.30 a.m. Larkin's Brewery
- 11.15 a.m. Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath
- 12.15 noon Bottle House, Smarts Hill
- 1.15 p.m. Beacon, Teagarden Lane Rustall
- 4.00 p.m. Groombridge Place Gardens

Tours combine for mass display-

- 6.00 p.m. Swan, West Peckham

#### Sunday June 13th

- 10.45 a.m. Ightham Mote
- 12.00 noon 25th Wrotham Festival of Steam & Transport
- 1.15 p.m. Massed Display - Wrotham Village Centre

The times shown in this programme are English Morris Time (EMT). It's unlikely that we will ever appear earlier than stated but thanks to the liquid generosity of many landlords we may well be slightly late.



### Shepherd Neame Tour

Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

#### Saturday July 10th

- 10.00 a.m. Clock Tower, Herne Bay
- 12.00 noon Divers Arms, Herne Bay
- 1.00 p.m. Crown Inn, Sarre
- 4.30 p.m. Grove Ferry Inn, Upstreet
- 6.00 p.m. Gate, Marshside

#### Sunday July 11th

- 1.00 noon Gate, Marshside

- 7th 8.30 p.m. Walking Tour of Farningham (Wed) with Wadard and Friends
- 15th 8.30 p.m. Chequers, Crouch
- 9.30 p.m. Plough, Basted
- 22th 8.30 p.m. Man of Kent, East Peckham
- 9.30 p.m. Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham
- 29th 8.30 p.m. White Swan, Ash
- 9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted

#### August

Friday 6th to Friday 13th August  
Broadstairs Folk Week

- 19th 8.30 p.m. Stags Head, Tonbridge
- 9.30 p.m. Ivy House, Tonbridge
- 26th 8.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

Saturday 4th October  
Tenterden Folk Festival

Friday 26th December - Boxing Day  
12.00 noon Black Horse, Stansted  
1.15 p.m. Rose and Crown, Wrotham