

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

10. 30 a.m. Castle Inn, Chiddingstone

11. 30 a.m. Chequers, Weald

12. 30 p.m. Plough, Leigh

STANSTED FETE

8. 00 p.m. Queens Head, Mereworth

The Hartley Morris Men

For twenty-six years the Hartley Morris Men have been dancing around the towns and villages of Kent. We were formed in 1952 by the late Percy Sephton who reformed the side from men who had been part of the Stansted Morris Men before the war.

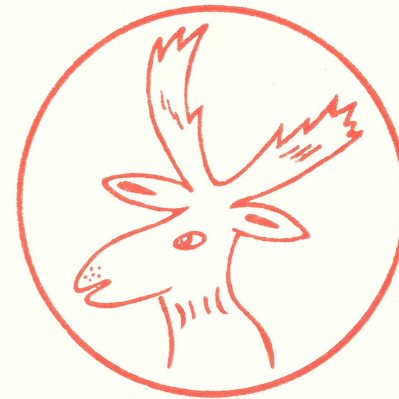
Morris dancing is very old, quite probably pre-Christian. We believe that it originated in the annual fertility rituals that would have been performed, in various forms, all over Europe every spring. Without the technology of his modern day counterpart, the ancient farmer led a very precarious existence, and any means, even magical ones were employed to ensure that a good growing season would ensue.

The dances that we perform originate in the Cotswolds, and it is entirely due to the efforts of the well known folk song collector Cecil Sharp that we are able to dance the Morris today. It was on Boxing Day, 1899 that Sharp chanced to come across a side of Morris dancers in the village of Headington Quarry in Oxfordshire. It happened that the team he saw was one of the last still performing the Morris, and realising that a whole section of folk culture was dying and in danger of being lost forever, he devoted the rest of his life to collecting what he could of the Morris and country dances of England.

Unfortunately for us, nobody thought to write down the dances of Kent, which must have existed in years gone by, because ritual dance is to be found all over the country. In the north-west, clog dances are performed and in the north-east the Morris is danced with swords. In Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire we find the horn dance and in Cornwall the Padstow Hobby Hoss, all of these are men's ritual dances which were performed every year as part of the regular cycle of life.

Finally, you can help us to keep this ancient tradition alive by dropping a few coins in the hat, the tradition being that this simple act will bring the giver good luck and fertility for the coming year!

For any enquiries please contact our Bagman, Kelvin Browne, 10 Woodside Road, Sidcup, Kent.



The Hartley Morris Men

Programme 1978

THURSDAY EVENING TOURS IN KENT

May	4	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Badger, New Ash Green
	11	7.30	Lamb, Swanley
		8.30	Ship, Puddledock
	18	8.00	Plough, Ivy Hatch
		9.00	Chaser, Shipbourne
	25	8.00	Railway, Higham
		9.00	Staff of Life, Cooling Street
June	1	8.00	Otford Village
		9.00	Shoreham Village
	8	8.00	Swan, West Peckham
		9.00	Queens Head, Mereworth
	15	8.00	Wheatsheaf, Kemsing
		9.00	Chequers, Heaverham
	22	8.00	Green Man, Hodsoll Street
		9.00	Black Horse Stansted
	29	8.00	Five Bells, Seal
		9.00	Bucks Head, Godden Green
	July	6	8.00
		9.00	Angel, Addington
13		8.00	Fox and Hounds, Toys Hill
		9.00	Cock, Ide Hill
	20	8.00	Eynsford Village
		9.00	Fox and Hounds, Romney Street
	27	8.00	Papermakers Arms, Plaxtol
		9.00	Hadlow
Aug.	17	8.00	Harrow, Ightham
		9.00	Crown Point Inn, Nr. Seal
	24	8.00	Grasshopper, Westerham Green
		9.00	Kings Arms, Brasted
	31	8.00	Leather Bottle, Cobham
		9.00	Royal Victoria and Bull, Rochester

OTHER TOURS

MAY 1st

5.30 a.m. — Coldrum Stones, Nr. Trottiscliffe
 10.00 a.m. — Meopham Green
 12.30 p.m. — Chequers, Heaverham
 3.00 p.m. — Kemsing Fete
 7.00 p.m. — Kentish Yeoman, Seal
 8.00 p.m. — Rose and Crown, Stone Street

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY, MAY 29th

10.00 a.m. — Pembury Green
 11.00 a.m. — Elephants Head, Hook Green
 12.30 p.m. — George and Dragon, Speldhurst
 3.00 p.m. — Tonbridge Cottage Hospital Fete
 7.00 p.m. — Old Vine, Cousley Wood
 8.00 p.m. — Woolpack, Benover
 9.00 p.m. — Man of Kent, East Peckham

ANNUAL WEEKEND OF DANCE 16th-18th JUNE

Saturday, 17th June

TOUR A

10.30 a.m. West Malling
 11.30 a.m. Hadlow Village
 1.00 p.m. Queens Head,
 Mereworth
 3.30 p.m. Allington Castle

TOUR B

10.30 a.m. Brasted Green
 12.00 noon Lamb, Bessels Green
 1.00 p.m. Cock, Ide Hill
 3.30 p.m. Penshurst Place

TOUR C

10.30 a.m. Swanley Town Centre
 12.00 noon Five Bells, Seal
 1.00 p.m. Grasshopper, Westerham Green
 3.30 p.m. Chartwell House

There will be a massed display by dancers from many parts of the country at 6.30 p.m. in Wrotham Village.

Sunday, 18th June

12.30 p.m. There will be a mass display of Dancing in Wrotham Village.

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR

Friday, 14th July

8.30 p.m. — Three Mariners, Oare

Saturday, 15th July

10.00 a.m. — Faversham Market
 11.00 a.m. — Faversham Market
 12.00 noon — Ross Inn, Kennington
 1.00 p.m. — Walnut Tree, Aldington
 During the afternoon at Lenham Fete
 7.00 p.m. — White Lion, Snelling
 8.00 p.m. — Windmill, Preston
 9.00 p.m. — The Sun, Faversham

Sunday, 16th July

12.15 p.m. — Carpenters Arms, Eastling