



## 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.

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## THURSDAY EVENING TOURS

May	2	7.45	Hartley Green
		8.15	Black Lion, Hartley
	9	8.00	Kemsing Village
		9.00	Chequers, Heaverham
	16	8.00	Railway, Higham
		9.00	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor
	23	8.00	Westerham
		9.00	White Hart, Brasted
	30	8.00	Bull, Yalding
		9.00	Blue Bell, Beltring
June	6	8.00	Kings Head, Bessels Green
		9.00	Cock, Ide Hill
	13	8.00	White Hart, Cuxton
		9.00	Golden Lion, Luddesdown
	20	8.00	Black Horse, Bean
		9.00	Black Lion, Southfleet
27	8.00	Plaxtol Village	
	9.00	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green	
	July	4	8.00
11		8.00	4 Elms, Four Elms
		9.00	Greyhound, Charcott
18		8.00	The Vigo
		9.00	Green Man, Hodsoil Street
25		8.00	Eynsford Village
	9.00	Otford Village	
August	1	8.00	Plough, Trottiscliffe
		9.00	Red Lion, Offham
	8	8.00	5 Bells, Seal
		9.00	Rose & Crown, Stone Street
	22	8.00	Walking tour of Cobham
	29	8.00	Little Brown Jug, Chiddingstone Causeway
	9.00	Northfield House, Speldhurst	
Sept	5	8.30	Royal Vic & Bull, Rochester

## MAY DAY TOUR - 1st MAY

5.30 a.m.	Coldrum Stones
10.15 a.m.	Southfleet Village
11.15 a.m.	Gravesend
11.45 a.m.	Jolly Drayman (Coke Oven)
12.45 p.m.	Victoria, Cliffe at Hoo
7.00 p.m.	Red Lion, Snodland
8.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

## SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

10.00 a.m.	Pembury Green
11.00 a.m.	Lamberhurst
12.00 p.m.	Bull, Three Legged Cross
1.00 p.m.	Greyhound, Wadhurst
4.00 p.m.	Tonbridge Cottage Hospital
6.30 p.m.	White Hart, Rustall
8.00 p.m.	Northfield House, Speldhurst

## ANNUAL WEEKEND OF DANCE - 8th-9th JUNE

Over 100 Morris Men from all over the country will participate.

### SATURDAY 8th JUNE

#### Squire's Tour

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

#### 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

#### Bagman's Tour

10.30 a.m.	Joiners Arms, West Malling
11.30 a.m.	King & Queen, East Malling
12.30 p.m.	Woolpack, Benover
3.30 p.m.	Staplehurst Village Fete

The three tours will then converge for a spectacular mass display at  
**Wrotham Village at 6.30pm**

### SUNDAY 9th JUNE

Mass display by all the dancers in Wrotham Square at 12.30 pm

## SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR - JULY 12th-14th

### FRIDAY 12th

Meet at the Sun, Faversham

### SATURDAY 13th

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

### SUNDAY 14th

12.00 p.m. Chequers, Doddington

## AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

10.30 a.m.	Star, Matfield
10.30 a.m.	Ticehurst
12.30 p.m.	Bell, Burwash
4.00 p.m.	Bodiam Castle
6.30 p.m.	Oak & Ivy, Hawhurst
7.30 p.m.	Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown

## 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