

THE HARTLEY MORRIS

As you will see from the front cover, the Hartley Morris Men are a pretty hairy lot. Two you will spot, however, as being slightly less hirsute than the rest. These are our extraneous characters, the Betsy (or man/woman) and the Hooden Horse. We would not wish to comment any further on the former, because until fairly recently such behaviour was generally considered to be either immoral, illegal or fattening (but don't try telling that to our Betsy, because he's bigger than you!). As to the latter, however, this type of hobby horse is unique to the Isle of Thanet. Some say it originally came over with Hengist and Horsa, hence it's name. We found ours at Broadstairs, in Viking Bay, after the very first Folk Festival in 1965. It has been with us ever since, and has appeared at almost all Broadstairs Folk Festivals - the Hartley equivalent of Hopping Down In Kent. It lives exclusively on a diet of young virgins and coins of the realm, which explains its usual lean and hungry look. Please do whatever you can to help, otherwise we may have to get it knackered (which it claims it already is).

The Kentish horse goes back before recorded history, as probably also does the Kentish Morris. We have records of such activities in Kent in the early 16th. century, and in 1683 a Mr. Thomas Wilson of Maidstone wrote that "Morrice Dancing was one reason that the county town was very profane". Nothing much has changed since then - except that the Hartley Men no longer dance in Maidstone.

It seems that with the coming of Cromwell the tradition of morris dancing more or less died out in Kent, but we do know of several "revival" sides that danced in the county at around the turn of the century. There was a side at Meopham, but they were forced to disband at the outbreak of the First World War. It may have been partially due to this local interest in the Morris that another side was formed at Stansted in 1934. Five years later, however, war once again put an end to the dancing but, in 1952, some of the original Stansted men got together and formed the Hartley Morris. Since then we have gone from strength to strength, dancing in the villages of Kent to keep this ancient tradition alive, retiring afterwards to the local pub for a song and a pint.

We always welcome prospective new members, so if you fancy joining us rather than just watching us, speak to any member of the side - or drop a line to any of the following Officers:-

Squire

Spikey,
22, Fairway Drive
Dartford
Kent.
0322 73110

Bagman

Hairy Dave,
30, The Oaks
New Barn
Swanley, Kent.
0322 666174

Foreman

Old Bob Totnobby,
6, Westholme
Orpington
Kent.
0689 823746

The Hartley 1991 Morris Men



THURSDAY EVENING STANDS - 1991

MAY	2	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Black Horse, Stansted
	9	8.00	Man of Kent, East Peckham
		9.00	Chequers, Laddingford
	16	8.00	Walking tour of West Malling, starting at
			to
		9.30	The Lobster Pot & travelling via The Five
			Pointed Star to finish at The Joiners Arms
	23	8.30	Rorty Crankle, Plaxtol
		9.30	Papermakers Arms, Plaxtol
	30	8.30	Eynsford Riverside
		9.30	Fruiterers Arms, Crockenhill
JUNE	6	8.30	Prince of Wales, Weald
		9.30	Windmill, Weald
	13	8.30	Meopham Green
		9.30	Green Man, Hodson Street
	20	8.30	The Pier, Lower Upnor
		9.30	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor
	27	8.30	Angel, Addington
		9.30	Plough, Trottiscliffe
JULY	4	8.30	Chaser, Shipbourne
		9.30	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
	11	8.30	Leather Bottle, Cobham
		9.30	Darnley Arms, Cobham
	18	8.30	Dorset Arms, Withyham, Sussex
			(with the Broadwood Morris Men)
	25	8.30	Dovecote, Capel
		9.30	Hopbine Inn, Petteridge
AUGUST	1	8.30	Walking tour of Farningham, starting
			to
		9.30	Lion Hotel to finish at The Pied Bull
	8	8.30	Brickmakers Arms, St. Mary's Platt
		9.30	Blue Anchor, St. Mary's Platt
	15		See us all this week at the
			Broadstairs Folk Festival!
	22	8.30	Fox & Hounds, Toys Hill
		9.30	Cock, Ide Hill
	29	8.00	Ightham Village
		9.00	Harrow, Ightham Common
SEPTEMBER	5	8.30	Royal Victoria & Bull, Rochester



BELTANE - WED. MAY 1ST

5.30a.m. The Coldrum Stones
10.00a.m. Southfleet Village
11.30a.m. Gravesend
1.30p.m. Wrotham Village

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY - MAY 27th

11.30a.m. Prince of Guinea,
Lower Gillingham
12.30p.m. 3 Mariners, Rainham
1.30p.m. Brown Jug, Upchurch
4.30p.m. The Promenade, Sheerness
7.00p.m. Mounted Rifleman, Luddenham
9.00p.m. Cricketers, Gillingham

HARTLEY ALE TOURS - JUNE 8th & 9th

Over this special weekend, your very own Hartley Morris Men are joined by guest teams from all over the civilized world. The Hammersmith Morris Men usually turn up as well!

Squires Tour - Saturday June 8th Bagmans Tour - Saturday June 8th

11.00a.m. Malt Shovel, Dartford 10.30a.m. Sevenoaks
12.00noon Eynsford Riverside 11.30a.m. Kings Head, Bessels Green
1.00p.m. Kings Arms, Shoreham 12.30p.m. Harrow, Ightham Common
6.00p.m. Massed display by teams from both tours at West Malling

Massed Display - Sunday June 9th

12.30p.m. Wrotham Village Centre

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR - JULY 13th & 14th

Over this weekend, which is sponsored by the best brewer in Kent - nay, in the world (that should be good for a free pint or two) - we dance and drink entirely at Shepherd Neame pubs. The things we do in the name of culture and tradition!

Sat. 13th. 10.00a.m. Faversham Market Place
12.00noon The Drum Inn, Stanford North
1.00p.m. The Master Brewer, Folkstone
7.30p.m. The Plough Inn, Brabourne Lees
9.00p.m. The Sun Inn, Faversham

Sun 14th. 1.00p.m. The Alma, Painters Forstal



SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY - AUG. 26TH

Joint tour with
Weald of Kent Morris Men

11.00a.m. Rose & Crown, Brenchley
11.45a.m. Vine, Goudhurst
1.00p.m. White Dog, Ewhurst Green
Afternoon Bodiam Castle
7.30p.m. Horse & Groom, Lamberhurst
8.30p.m. Bull, Brenchley

BOXING DAY TOUR - DEC. 26th

12.noon Black Horse, Stansted
1.15p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

P.S. Don't forget Broadstairs Folk Week (Aug. 9th to 16th). Along with many other groups, Hartley will be dancing and singing all the time the pubs are open (& often afterwards)