



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.

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THURSDAY EVENING TOURS

<u>MAY</u>	5	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Hope & Anchor, Stansted.
	12	8.00	The Grasshopper, Westerham.
		9.00	The Cock, Ide Hill.
	19	8.00	Bricklayers Arms, Chipstead.
		9.00	Otford Village.
	26	8.00	The Chequers, Laddingford.
		9.00	Elm Tree, Paddock Wood.
<u>JUNE</u>	2	8.00	White Rock, Under River.
		9.00	The Windmill, Weald.
	9	8.00	Eynsford Ford.
		9.00	Fruiterers Arms, Crockenhill.
	16	8.00	Amazon & Tiger, Harvel.
		9.00	Black Horse, Stansted.
	23	8.00	White Hart, Cuxton.
		9.00	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor.
	30	8.00	The Harrow, Ightham Common.
		9.00	The Chequers, Heaverham.
<u>JULY</u>	7	8.00	The Old Anchor, Yalding.
		9.00	Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham.
	14	8.00	Plaxtol Village (with Royal Borough Morris Men)
		9.00	Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green.
	21	8.00	Baldfaced Stag, Ashurst.
		9.00	Northfields House, Speldhurst.
	28	8.00	Dorset Arms, Withyham (with Broadwood Morris Men)
<u>AUGUST</u>	4	8.00	Railway Tavern, Sole Street.
		9.00	Darnley Arms, Cobham.
	11		Broadstairs Folk Festival
	18	8.00	Golding Hop, Plaxtol.
		9.00	Star & Garter, Basted
	25	8.00	Five Bells, Seal.
		9.00	The Vine, Sevenoaks.
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	1	8.30	The Rose & Crown, Wrotham.

MAY DAY TOUR - 1st MAY

5.30 a.m.	Coldrum Stones
10.00 a.m.	Southfleet Village
12.30 p.m.	The Victoria, Cliffe. Medway Punt.
7.00 p.m.	Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh.
8.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY - 25th MAY

10.30 a.m.	The Bull, Yalding.
11.30 a.m.	The Gun & Spitroast, Horsmonden.
12.30 p.m.	The Vine, Tenterden. Tenterden Railway Trip.
7.30 p.m.	White Hart, Claygate.
8.30 p.m.	The Addlestead Tavern, East Peckham.

HARTLEY ALE TOUR

SQUIRE'S TOUR - Saturday 4th June

10.30 a.m.	The Angel Centre, Tonbridge.
11.30 a.m.	Cardinal's Error, Tonbridge.
12.30 p.m.	The Man of Kent, East Peckham.
3.30 p.m.	The Hop Farm, Beltring.

FOREMAN'S TOUR - Saturday 4th June.

10.30 a.m.	The Chaser, Shipbourne
11.30 a.m.	The Vine, Sevenoaks. ✓
12.30 p.m.	The Woodman, Otford.

BAGMAN'S TOUR - Saturday 4th June

10.30 a.m.	The Shambles, Sevenoaks.
11.30 a.m.	Castle Inn, Chiddingstone.
12.30 p.m.	The Greyhound, Charcott.

MASSED DISPLAYS

Saturday 4th June	6.00 p.m.	West Malling
Sunday 5th June	12.30 p.m.	Wrotham.

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR

SATURDAY 16th JULY

10.00 a.m.	Faversham Market
11.00 a.m.	Coach & Horses, Whitstable
12.30 p.m.	The Gate, Marshside
7.00 p.m.	The Dove, Dargate
8.00 p.m.	The Alma, Painters Forstal
9.00 p.m.	The Sun, Faversham.

SUNDAY 17th JULY

12.30 p.m.	The Chequers, Doddington.
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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY - 29th AUGUST

11.00 a.m.	The Bell Inn, Harrietsham
12.00 noon	Kings Head, Grafty Green.
1.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Mundy Bois.
4.00 p.m.	The Dolphin Yard Barge Museum.
7.00 p.m.	The Cock Horse, Detling.
8.00 p.m.	The Fleur de Lis, Burham

BOXING DAY - 26th DECEMBER

10.00 a.m.	Hartley Green.
11.00 a.m.	Hope & Anchor, Stansted.
12.00 noon	The Black Horse, Stansted.
1.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham