



## 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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# The Hartley Morris Men 1987



Photo by courtesy of Sevenoaks Chronicle.

THURSDAY EVENING TOURS

<u>May</u>	7	7.30	Hartley Green
		8.30	Black Horse, Stansted
	14	8.00	Bo Peep, Chelsfield
		9.00	Fruiterers Arms, Crockenhill
	21	8.00	Golden Lion, Luddesdown
		9.00	Railway Tavern, Higham
	28	8.00	The Windmill, Weald
		9.00	The Greyhound, Charcott
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<u>June</u>	4	8.00	Elm Tree, Paddock Wood
		9.00	The Chequers, Laddingford
	11	8.00	Bricklayers Arms, Chipstead
		9.00	The Bull, Brasted
	18	8.00	White Hart, Cuxton
		9.00	Tudor Rose, Upper Upnor
	25	8.00	The Plough, Ivy Hatch
		9.00	The Chequers, Heaverham
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<u>July</u>	2	8.00	Railway Tavern, Sole Street
		9.00	Darnley Arms, Cobham
	9	8.00	The Grasshopper, Westerham
		9.00	The Cock, Ide Hill
	16	8.00	The Unicorn, Marden
		9.00	The West End Tavern, Marden
	23	8.00	Hadlow Village (with Royal Borough Morris Men)
		9.00	Kentish Rifleman, Dunk's Green
30	8.00	Dorset Arms, Withyham (with Broadwood Morris Men)	
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<u>August</u>	6	8.00	White Rock, Underriver
		9.00	The Vine, Sevenoaks
	13		Broadstairs Folk Festival
	20	8.00	The Old Anchor, Yalding
		9.00	Bush, Blackbird & Thrush, East Peckham
	27	8.00	Eynsford Ford
	9.00	Otford Village	
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<u>September</u>	3	8.30	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

MAY DAY TOUR - 1st MAY

5.30 a.m.	Coldrum Stones
10.00 a.m.	Southfleet Village
10.30 a.m.	Black Lion, Southfleet
11.30 a.m.	Cobham Village
12.30 p.m.	Victoria, Cliffe
	North Sea Cruise
7.00 p.m.	Railway Tavern, Meopham
8.00 p.m.	Rose & Crown, Wrotham

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY - 25th MAY

10.00 a.m.	Pembury Green
11.00 a.m.	Brown Trout, Lamberhurst
12.00 p.m.	Duke of York, Ticehurst
1.00 p.m.	Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown
3.30 p.m.	Bewl Water
7.00 p.m.	White Hart, Rusthall
8.00 p.m.	Northfield House, Speldhurst

HARTLEY ALE TOUR

SQUIRE'S TOUR - Saturday 6th June

10 a.m.	Angel Centre, Tonbridge
11.30 a.m.	Man of Kent, East Peckham
12.30 p.m.	Bush, Blackbird & Thrush East Peckham
3.15 p.m.	Hop Farm, Beltring

FOREMAN'S TOUR - Saturday 6th June

10.30 a.m.	Swanley Village Centre
11.30 a.m.	Pied Bull, Farningham
12.30 p.m.	Woodman, Otford

BAGMAN'S TOUR - Saturday 6th June

10.45 a.m.	Gravesend Centre
11.15 a.m.	Jolly Drayman
12.30 p.m.	Black Lion, Southfleet

MASSED DISPLAYS

Saturday 6th	6.00 p.m.	West Malling
Sunday 7th	12.30 p.m.	Wrotham

SHEPHERD NEAME TOUR

SATURDAY 25th JULY

10.30 a.m.	Faversham Market
12.30 p.m.	Broadstairs
7 p.m.	The Alma, Painters Forstal
8.00 p.m.	The George, Newham
9.00 p.m.	The Sun, Faversham

SUNDAY 26th JULY

12.30 p.m.	The Chequers, Doddington
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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY - 31st AUGUST

10.30 a.m.	The Star, Matfield
11.30 a.m.	The Bull, Sissinghurst
12.30 p.m.	Eight Bells, The Moor, Hawkhurst
3.30 p.m.	Bodiam Castle
7.00 p.m.	Wellington Arms, Gill's Green
8.00 p.m.	Green Cross Inn, Goudhurst

BOXING DAY - 26th DECEMBER

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