

Morris dancing has been a part of this country's heritage for hundreds of years. Following a period of decline the tradition was luckily saved from near extinction in the early years of the last century and experienced a revival after the Great War.

In 1934 a group of local men got together and founded The Stansted Morris Men. Following a break in their activities during the last war, a number of them reformed in 1952 as The Hartley Morris Men. Today we continue that tradition of maintaining a part of English culture as our members and forbears have done locally for at least the past 74 years. Based in Wrotham for the last 3 decades we maintain our allegiance to the populace of villages and towns in Kent with occasional invitations to perform at points westward or maybe even across the Thames.

The year 1934 also saw the formation of a national association of men's Morris clubs, to be known as 'The Morris Ring', with the objective of maintaining the tradition and performances of the Morris in its various forms, and bringing it to a wider audience. The current Morris Ring organisation, of which Hartley is a full member, is run by a Squire, Bagman and Treasurer and has over two hundred independent Member and Associate teams.

The Squire (or 'Head') of The Morris Ring serves for two years and is elected by the members of Morris sides from all over the country. So it is with some pride for us that the newly elected Squire to be taking office later this year is a long standing member of the Hartley Morris Men. Our very own Brian Tasker will be dancing into office at the Dartington Ring Meeting in September. This will be the second Ring Meeting that Hartley Morris Men will be attending during the year as we have also been invited to the Liverpool meeting in July.

Generally four to five weekend Ring Meetings are held every year in various parts of the country. These are formal gatherings of up to 200 Morris men organised by individual Morris clubs who arrange displays in their local area. Hartley Morris Men have hosted three Ring Meetings based in Wrotham in 1982, 1992 & 2002 and co-hosted one in Tonbridge during 2007. Our next one is planned for 2012. In addition we hold an annual weekend 'Ale' in Wrotham which is regularly attended by around 70 of the country's finest dancers and singers. And why do we do it? Well we enjoy keeping a bit of English culture alive and we enjoy the pleasure it brings to our audiences.

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We hope that you will share in the good luck which the Morris brings by contributing to our 'bag'.

We practise in Wrotham at St Georges Hall on Thursday evenings throughout the winter months. If you are interested in taking it up as a hobby please come along to our 'Informal Taster Evening' on September 18th in St Georges Hall, Wrotham at 8.30pm. Everyone welcome. Wassail.

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Or Telephone **01622 871167**

www.hartleymorris.org

THE HARTLEY MORRIS MEN



Photo Courtesy - John Wardley, COPYRIGHT KENT MESSENGER GROUP

2008 PROGRAMME

Thursday 1st May - Beltane Tour

5.30 a.m. The Coldrum Stones
 10.00 a.m. Southfleet Village
 11.00 a.m. Robert Pocock, Gravesend
 12.00 noon Green Man, Hodsoll Street
 1.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham

Sunday 4th May - Rochester Sweeps' Festival
 Singing in the Gordon Hotel 12.30 to 2.30 p.m.

May

8th 8.30 p.m. White Swan, Ash
 9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted
 15th 8.30 p.m. Tonbridge, Walking Tour
 start Chequers end Punch&Judy

Saturday 17th May - Spa Valley Railway Morris Day
 Starting 10.00 a.m.

22nd 8.30 p.m. The Pier, Lower Upnor
 9.30 p.m. King's Arms, Upper Upnor
 29th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Hadlow
 9.30 p.m. Two Brewers, Hadlow

June

4th 8.30 p.m. Cobham Walking Tour
 (Wed) with Invicta, Motley, Plain
 Capers & St Clements Clog
 12th 8.30 p.m. Olde Whyte Lyon, Locksbottom
 9.30 p.m. Change of Horses, Farnborough
 and singing in the Folk Club
 19th 8.30 p.m. Ivy Leaf, Dartford
 9.30 p.m. Malt Shovel, Dartford
 26th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt
 9.30 p.m. Bricklayer's Arms, Chipstead

July

3rd 8.30 p.m. Man of Kent, East Peckham
 9.30 p.m. Bush, Blackbird & Thrush,
 East Peckham



Hartley Ale

June 6th to 8th

Our Annual Ale

where we are host to other Morris Men's teams
 from all over the country.

Goacher's Tour - Saturday June 7th
 10.00 a.m. Goacher's Brewery
 11.00 a.m. Cock, Boughton Monchelsea
 12.00 noon Lord Raglan, Rabbits Cross
 1.00 p.m. Bell & Jorrock, Frittenden
 4.00 p.m. Sissinghurst Castle

Larkin's Tour - Saturday June 7th
 10.00 a.m. Larkin's Brewery
 11.00 a.m. Leicester Arms, Penshurst
 12.00 noon Bottle House, Smarts Hill
 1.00 p.m. Beacon, Rusthall
 3.45 p.m. High Rocks Inn
 4.30 p.m. Tunbridge Wells, West Station

Tours combine for mass display-

6.00 p.m. Swan, West Peckham
 Sunday June 8th
 11.00 a.m. Ightham Mote
 1.00 p.m. Massed Display - Wrotham

9th 8.30 p.m. Terrace Tavern, Gravesend
 (Wed) 9.30 p.m. Ascott Arms, Gravesend

11th - 13th Mersey Ring Meeting

17th 8.30 p.m. Blue Bell, Beltring
 9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford
 24th 8.30 p.m. Buck's Head, Godden Green
 9.30 p.m. White Rock, Underriver
 31st 8.30 p.m. Leicester Arms, Penshurst
 9.30 p.m. Greyhound, Charcott

August

6th 8.30 p.m. Kings Arms, Shoreham
 (Wed) 9.30 p.m. Crown, Otford



Shepherd Neame Tour

Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

Saturday June 28th

10.00 a.m. Rose, Herne Bay
 11.00 a.m. Clock Tower, Herne Bay
 12.00 noon Neptune's Hall, Broadstairs
 1.00 p.m. Royal Albion, Broadstairs
 1.30 p.m. Wrotham Arms, Broadstairs
 4.30 p.m. Crown Inn, Sarre
 6.00 p.m. Gate, Marshside

Sunday June 29th

12.00 noon Gate, Marshside

Friday 8th to Friday 15th August
 Broadstairs Folk Week

21st 8.30 p.m. Chaser, Shipbourne
 9.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, DunksGreen
 28th 8.30 p.m. Chequers, Sevenoaks
 9.30 p.m. Anchor, Sevenoaks

Hop Farm Beer Festival, Beltring
 30th - 31st August



September

4th 8.30 p.m. Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne
 9.30 p.m. Windmill, Hollingbourne
 with Woodchurch Morris Men

5th - 7th Dartington Ring Meeting

11th 8.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham
 18th 8.30 p.m. Morris Dancing Taster Evening
 St. Georges Hall, Wrotham

26th December - Boxing Day

12.00 noon Black Horse, Stansted
 1.15 p.m. Rose and Crown, Wrotham