

In 1934, before the days of soaps on television, a group of local men got together to pass their spare time in the evenings by forming the Stansted Morris Men. The same year, in Thaxted, near the other Stansted, six existing Morris teams (or sides) founded the Morris Ring, the National Association of Men's Morris & Sword Dance Clubs.

In 1939 Mr Hitler's ambitions rather curtailed most Morris clubs activities including those of the Stansted men who nevertheless reformed and metamorphasised in 1952 as the Hartley Morris Men taking the colours Red, White & Blue in recognition of the Queen's accession to the throne. Indeed, on the front of this very document is pictured our very own Brian Tasker, resplendent in our kit, dancing in as Squire of the Morris Ring at Dartington last year. Hatless, the more observant will notice, not due to the wind but because he is dancing a solo jig.

This year, to celebrate our joint 75th anniversary, Hartley Morris Men are proud to be hosting the 318th Meeting of the Morris Ring over the weekend 12-14 June when some 120 dancers will be based in the village of Wrotham, which we adopted as our 'spiritual'* home some 31 years ago. *(spiritual – as in the Rose & Crown, where all the singing will take place on the Friday and Saturday evenings when spirits will be duly exercised).

The rest of the year we maintain the traditionally English custom of Morris dancing by performing most Thursday evenings during the summer outside some of the finest pubs in Kent, as listed in this brochure. Throughout the winter we practise every Thursday evening in St Georges Hall, Wrotham, where similarly minded men wishing to adopt our lifestyle are welcome to join us. In fact at the beginning of September, in conjunction with Invicta Ladies Morris, we will be holding a 'taster' evening for all-comers wanting to try the Morris. It costs nothing, keeps you fit and young at heart so come along and give it a go; any of our men will be pleased to talk to you about their experiences of being a Morris dancer and give you more details about joining a Morris side.

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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 George's 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 24th in "St George's" Hall, Wrotham at 8.30pm. Everyone welcome. Wassail.

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or Telephone **01622 871167**

www.hartleymorrismen.org.uk

THE **HARTLEY** **MORRIS MEN**



2009 PROGRAMME

Friday 1st May - Beltane Tour
 5.30 a.m. The Coldrum Stones
 9.30 a.m. Southfleet School

Open top bus trip to London
 sponsored by Lush Fresh
 Handmade Cosmetics



12.30 p.m. Sloane Square and the Kings Road



Sunday 3rd & Monday 4th May
 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
 Kent County Fair at
 The Hop Farm Country Park

May

7th 9.00 p.m. King's Arms, Upper Upnor
 14th 8.30 p.m. Chequers, Sevenoaks
 9.30 p.m. Anchor, Sevenoaks

Saturday 16th May
 Spa Valley Railway Morris Day
 On and around the railway
 from 10am



21st 8.30 p.m. Rising Sun, Fawkham Green
 9.30 p.m. Black Horse, Stansted
 28th 8.30 p.m. Whyte Lyon, Locksbottom
 9.30 p.m. Change of Horses, Farnborough
 & singing in the Folk Club

29th - 31st Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

June

4th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Hadlow
 9.30 p.m. Two Brewers, Hadlow

10th 8.30 p.m. Cobham Walking Tour
 (Wed) with Invicta, Motley, &
 St Clements Clog



Doug & Sue welcome you to

The Rose & Crown Wrotham

The spiritual home of the
 Hartley Morris Men

High Street, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7AE
 01732 882409
www.therose-crown.co.uk

12th - 14th Hartley Morris Ring Meeting
 See overleaf for details

18th 8.30 p.m. Harrow, Knockholt
 9.30 p.m. Bricklayer's Arms, Chipstead
 25th 8.30 p.m. Papermakers Arms, Hawley
 9.30 p.m. Malt Shovel, Dartford

July

2nd 8.30 p.m. Man of Kent, East Peckham
 9.30 p.m. Bush, Blackbird & Thrush,
 East Peckham

9th 8.30 p.m. Little Brown Jug,
 Chiddingstone Causeway

9.30 p.m. Greyhound, Charcott
 16th 8.30 p.m. Chaser, Shipbourne

9.30 p.m. Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
 23rd 8.30 p.m. Blue Bell, Beltring

9.30 p.m. Chequers, Laddingford

30th 8.30 p.m. Buck's Head, Godden Green
 9.30 p.m. White Rock, Underriver



Shepherd Neame Tour
 Sponsored by Britains Oldest Brewery.

Saturday July 11th

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

Sunday July 12th

12.00 noon Gate, Marshside

August

5th 8.30 p.m. Castle Inn, Brenchley
 (Wed) Guests of Weald of Kent MM

Friday 7th to Friday 14th August
 Broadstairs Folk Week

20th 8.30 p.m. Bottle House, Smarts Hill
 9.30 p.m. Leicester Arms, Penhurst
 27th 8.30 p.m. Rum Puncheon, Gravesend
 9.30 p.m. Terrace Tavern, Gravesend

September

3rd 8.30 p.m. Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne
 9.30 p.m. Windmill, Hollingbourne
 with Woodchurch Morris Men

10th 8.30 p.m. Rose & Crown, Wrotham
 24th 8.30 p.m. TASTER EVENING,
 St Georges Hall, Wrotham

26th December - Boxing Day

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