

Hook Eagle



Morris Men

May

Mon	1st	5.30 am	Dancing in the Dawn by the plough in Hook car park
Fri	5th to Mon		Sweeps Festival, Rochester Kent
Thu	11th	8.00 pm	The Crooked Billet, Wokingham with Berkshire Bedlam
Sat	13th	1.00pm	Fete at Prior Heath School, Camberley
Fri	19th	8.00 pm to 9.00pm	The White Hart, Hook The Crooked Billet, Hook with Shinfield Shambles
Fri	26th	8.00pm	The Falcon, Rotherwick with Basing Clog
Mon	29th	1.00pm to 2.00pm	The Bull and Butcher, Sandhurst Sandhurst Donkey Derby

June

Fri	2nd	8.00pm to 9.00pm	The Jolly Miller, North Warnborough The Anchor, North Warnborough with Taepa's Tump
Fri	9th to Sun		Wimborne Folk Festival
Fri	16th	8.00 pm to 9.00 pm	The Lamb Hotel, Hartley Wintney The Cricketers, Hartkey Wintney with Mayflower Morris
Sat	17th	2.00 pm	St Patrick's School Fete, Farnb'rough
Fri	23rd to Sun		Lobster Potties Festival Sheringham, Norfolk

Programme 1995



Fri	30th	8.00 pm to 9.00pm	The Crown, Basing Barton's Mill, Basing
-----	------	-------------------	--

July

Fri	7th	8.00 pm to 9.00 pm	The Old House at Home, Newnham The Dorchester Arms, Hook
Sat	8th	10.00am	Alton Day of Dance and Nurdling
Fri	14th	8.00 pm	The Bell, Odiham followed by a tour of Odiham pubs with Alton Morris
Sat	15th	6.30 pm to 7.30pm	Whitewater School, Rotherwick The Coach and Horses, Rotherwick
Fri	21st	8.00 pm to 9.00pm	The Wagon and Horses, Hartley Wintney The Crooked Billet, Hook with Kintbury May Maids
Fri	28th to Sun		A Weekend in Gorges, Normandy

September

Fri	1st	8.00 pm	The Windmill, Ewshot
Sun	10th	12.30pm	The Golden Pot, Shalden
Sun	17th	12.30pm	The Four Horseshoes, Long Sutton
Sun	24th	12.30pm	Windsor, with Windsor Morris and other sides
Sun	30th	12.30pm	The Raven Hotel, Hook

This programme is subject to change without notice



The Old House at Home

Tydney Lane, Newnham Green, Near Hook, RG27 9AA

Telephone/Fax No: (01256) 762222



You'll find us located at Newnham, at the back of the green, where a warm welcome awaits you. We have many fine ales and much home-cooked food available. We can cater for parties, and large parties can have sole use of the barn if they wish.

The reason that the Morris developed along the Welsh border first, rather than the Scottish border, was simply that it was not necessary because of Hadrian's Wall. However as the wall fell into disrepair, the Morris also developed in the north of England to compensate, but being developed later, was somewhat more subtle. The warning to potential invaders from Scotland wearing kilts is obvious when you consider that Morris dancing in the north is either performed in heavy wooden clogs involving a lot of high kicking, or involves the use of swords.

These days, Morris dancing is still uniquely English, but is now performed to entertain rather than to frighten.

Having started from humble beginnings just four years ago, the Hook Eagle Morris Men perform dances in the Border Morris style, and have had such meteoric success that we are now universally regarded as being simply the best men's Border Morris side in all Hampshire. By a strange twist of coincidences, we are also the **only** men's Border Morris side in all Hampshire.

CAMRA

Pub of the Season

The *Falcon*
at Rotherwick

7 Real Ales

Bar Snacks and Meals

Warm Friendly Atmosphere

Occasional Bars Catered for

Pete and Sue McGregor wish Hook Eagle Morris Men every success for the 1995 dance season

The Falcon, The Street, Rotherwick, Hampshire. Tel: (01256) 762586

The Crooked Billet, London Road, Hook, Hampshire



Richard and Sally Sanders are your friendly hosts and have been here since 1986. Refreshment comes in a wide range of beers and drinks, accompanied by an excellent choice of home-cooked food. Meals are available at lunchtime and in the evening. You can enjoy your food as you sit in the pleasant garden by the river, or sit by the welcoming open log fires on a cold winter's night. Children are most welcome.

Telephone 01256-762118



Hook Morris



Eagle Men

Many theories have been proposed as to the origins of the Morris. The most common theory is that it is a remnant of pre-Christian druidical fertility rites, and used to be danced in midwinter to ensure the return of the sun after the winter solstice and in spring to ensure that the corn fields would grow and flourish. There are many factors which appear to prove this theory: (1) To this day the Morris is still traditionally performed at Christmas time, and at dawn on May 1st. (2) The connection between fertility and the long, thick and hard sticks used by Morris dancers is obvious. (3) There continues to be an unshakeable association between the Morris and the mighty Barleycorn (in the form of partaking of the fermented extract thereof). (4) Because the Morris has continued to be danced throughout the centuries, the sun has continued to return every spring, and the corn harvest to thrive every summer. That the sun has returned and the corn grown every year is beyond doubt, so this is regarded as the most incontrovertible proof of the power of the Morris.

Another theory has it that Morris dancing was in fact only invented recently by a certain Cecil Sharp, Esq., on Boxing Day 1899, when he came across a group of itinerant quarrymen, and taught them a some simple exercises to help them keep warm.

However, recent research has revealed the true origins of the Morris dance. It is now accepted that Border Morris, which comes from the English counties along the border between England and Wales, is in fact the oldest form. It is also the simplest and most violent, involving loud yells and beating the hell out of each other with stout sticks. It derives from a ritual display as performed by the English when any Welshmen dared to venture across the border. The English, being in those days by nature xenophobic, devised the dance to illustrate to the Welshmen what they should expect if they were to venture any further. This can be compared with the posturing of other species of wild animals, in which the animals rarely actually fight with each other, but simply try to frighten each other off by putting on the fiercest display. This also explains the outlandish appearance of Border Morris dancers, and the blacked faces used as a disguise to make themselves harder to recognise at any subsequent police identity parade.



Information

**For further information
contact:**

- Squire** - Ed Humphrey 01256-764153
Bagman - John Lambert 01256-763546
Please contact either of the above for bookings
Foreman of Dance - Richard Walton 01252-875511
Publicity - John Ellis 01256-768740

Practice Night

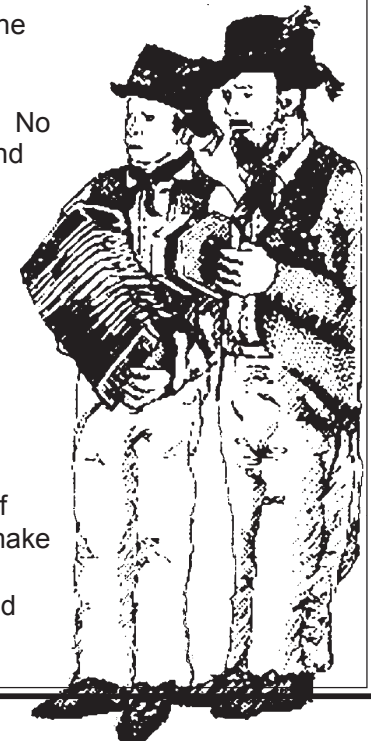
Every Friday from 8pm - 10pm during the winter at St John the Evangelist Parish Church, London Road, Hook.

We always welcome new members. No experience is required. Please come and join us.

Notes

Hook Eagle Morris Men, as always, assure our spectators of health, wealth, happiness and fertility. (Strike out those which do not apply)

Please note that, as our dance is performed under the open skies, our venues may be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. We will, however, make every effort to satisfy you - sometimes even to the extent of wearing wellies and carrying umbrellas.





THE RAVEN HOTEL

Station Road, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9HS

Telephone no: Hook (01256) 76254

Fax no: (01256) 768677 Telex no: 858901

Full Grill Menu

Bar Snacks

3 Function Rooms

38 En-suite rooms

Sunday Lunch

Live Jazz Every Saturday



HOOK

EAGLE MORRIS

M E N

1995

