



Hoodening



ancillary to the morris dancers.

- **Headcorn Morris** — now defunct. The older archived site has some good information on their 'hooden' horse **Jason and his origin**.
- **Sandgate Hoodeners** — based around a morris side, and formed by Martin McKenna in around 1989, using Whistable's Cheshire souling play, and a horse copied from Walmer. After Martin's death in 1998, Doug Quinney continued but despite a few commemorative 'Day for Martin' events the group became defunct by around 2013 (Homer Sykes has some **photos of Sandgate Hoodeners in 2012**). One member moved to Farnborough, passing certain aspects to a local mumming team. What became of the Sandgate horse is unknown.
- **Rabble Folk Theatre** — another group with almost no online presence, so it's often hard to tell if they're still active. Horse commissioned by Gail Duff in 1979, based on Barnett Field's model, but largely a morris / mumming beast. Sometimes use a version of Whitstable's Cheshire souling play.
- **Tonbridge Mummers, Hoodeners and Howlers** (archive site). Founded in 1981 by Fran & Geoff Doel, and once featured on the **BBC**. The Doels are possibly best known for their publications about folklore, including **Mumming, Howling and Hoodening: Midwinter Rituals in Sussex, Kent and Surrey**. Now they have moved to Littlebourne, this group has been largely

**Folkestone residents group**

Colin Terry · 9 Mar ·

Does any group still do the Hooden Horse ritual/practice in Folkestone?

5

5

5



Most relevant

**Doug Quinney**

The Sandgate Hoodeners of which I was a member for several years used to perform the play in the run up to Christmas at pubs including The Ship Sandgate, The Clarendon Sandgate, The Lifeboat, The British Lion, The Guildhall, The Chequers Selsted, The Earl Grey and various others.

The side which was founded by the late Martin McKenna had several personnel changes over the years and eventually disbanded. I played the part of Dobbin or the Squire. I still have my copy of the script we used. Fun times. 😊

8 mos

Like

Reply

3

**Nic Maroney**

[Doug Quinney](#) that sounds great fun



Write an answer...





8 mos Like Reply 3



Nic Maroney
Doug Quinney that sounds great fun and it should be resurrected!

8 mos Like Reply 4



Karen Hawker
Do I remember a pair of hooden horses in the old Folkestone museum when I was a child? Along with the skeleton?

8 mos Like Reply 2



Doug Quinney
Karen Hawker yes you do. The last time I saw them they were in the museum at Deal. Martin McKenna who created Dobbin for the Sandgate Hoodeners based him on 1 of the ones on display.

8 mos Like Reply 1



Colin Bishop
Yes, I remember that doug.



8 mos Like Reply 1



Write an answer...





Hoodening



before being rediscovered & donated to the museum by Wye College is unknown. Sadly, they are not normally on display, but one did emerge briefly at Tenterden Museum in 2012, and both then formed part of the major **2023 exhibition** in Maidstone itself.

Walmer



Folkestone Public Library used to contain an original horse, used in Walmer in 1906 (photographed by Maylam) and rediscovered in 1955. It also contained a later 'colt', made by Jack Laming (see below). Both are now in **Deal Museum** (see also Hengist, below). Note that neither is the original **Deal horse**, as this was thrown away in the 1950s.

Chislet





Hoodening

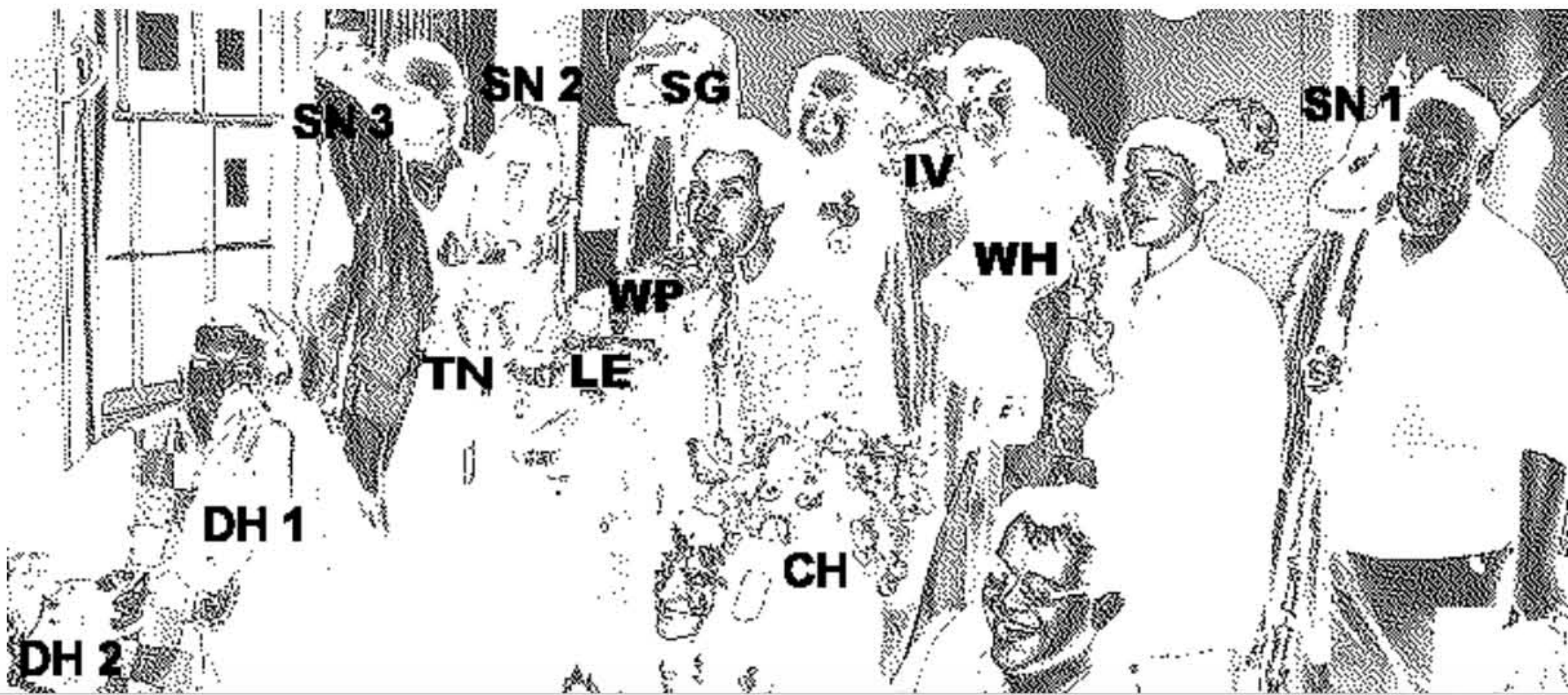


goat featured in a [Mayday episode of EastEnders](#) (see also [EastEnders Wiki](#)), where it bit Ian Beale's finger.

The 21st century herd



The Hooden Herd assembled in 2000 at the Boyden Gate. SN1/2/3 = St Nicholas, CH = Chislet, DH1/2 = Deal Hoodeners [modern; with a unique mini-horse], IV = Invicta, SG = Sandgate, TN = Tonbridge, LE = Lenham, WP = West Peckham, WH = Whitstable.



hoodening.org.uk

