

OLD GAME HAS AIRING.

The Fool is the most important chap in Haxey on St. John's Eve. He summons the young lads of the village to the annual contest with nearby Westwoodside, and in hats like the ones worn 600 years ago, off they go, thirsting for the game. It's played in a field near the church. That's where Lady de Mowbray's riding-hood blew off, one St. John's Eve in the 14th century. Since then, a hood of sacking is thrown by the Lord of the Game into the bunch, where they scramble for it, as the villagers of old did for Lady Mowbray's hood. As soon as one is dropped, the Lord pitches another in.

When 12 hoods have been thrown, a special, leather-wrapped one goes into the scrum, to be kept by the lucky man who gets it. Why lucky? Because he gets as much free beer as he can drink. A very popular game.