

BORDER

Traditional, or made up recently, in traditional style. From English counties bordering on Wales ie Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

Sticks on shoulders when not in use, vigorous single stepping unless otherwise stated, more emphasis on downbeat. Freer style than Cotswold.

WELLY BOOT

For 5. Big Sticks.

Music: "The French Tune" as collected by Tim Brewster in Brittany.

History. This dance was created by Mike Nesbit while in California, then travelled round the world to Wellington Morris Men of New Zealand, collected by Roy Dommett, taught at Border Workshop in Preston, learnt and danced by Earl of Stamford Morris who renamed it Welly Boot after Wellington MM, taught to MMM, sent on video to Molonglo Mayhem Morris of Canberra who renamed it Mucky Gum Boots, danced by MMM at Scarborough Fayre '96 and seen (and recognised, despite modifications all along the way!) by its creator Mike of Black Pig! It has also been taught to Freaks in the Peaks.

FIGURES: ½ ROUNDS ½ GIP WHOLE GIP BACK TO BACK WHOLE ROUNDS
1st half with partner 2nd half on the side. In rounds centre person hold stick up to be hit while cowering!

CHORUS:- Butts on ground behind, clash tips centre person with each in turn 1 2 3 4 , hey ending with 4th person in centre -all stepping in hey.

Final figure:- chorus again but end in final hey 3rd person stays in middle, all hit ground with stick tip once & lunge into centre to hit all sticks once.

MUCH WENLOCK

Big stick (**except MMM use little stick**). Music Not for Joe Jig. Based on traditional dance from Much Wenlock; this version more or less as taught at Madcap Weekends of late 1980s. Any even number.

FIGURES: Question mark (?), Back-to-back, Circles of 4, Lines separate: odds go down, evens go up.

CHORUS: Sticking, ?, Sticking. 7 fast, 3 slow, evens present first and odds hit evens, repeat but evens hit odds.

PORTSMOUTH

Big sticks for 6. Source from "All Fools Workshop".

CHORUS:- Hey in line of 6, alternately started by 1 (face up) & 6 (face down). Single stepping hit tips alt forehand backhand, all stepping, join in hey when 1 reaches you, at end hit ghost! Continue back to place. Use rest of music to dance into set:- we originally did this so partners nos add up to 7 ie 1 opp 6, 3 opp 4, 2 opp 5.

FIGURES:- 1 Hey on side, 2 back to back & body swing, 3 back to back on the side ("the doobry!"), 4 cast.

1 Hey on side: 1 & 6 face down, rest face up. Parallel ½ hey, hit tips alt forehand, backhand. Second ½ hey 1 & 6 face up rest down and repeat to place. Then dance back into line.

Pattern of hits:- tops (1+6) c,c,p,n. c,c,p,p. Middles (3+4) c,n,c,p. c,n,c,p. Bottoms (2+5) n,c,c,n. p,c,c,n.
c = hit next person, p = hit partner, n = hit nothing.

2 Back to back & body swing:- back to back rt shoulder (no clash), transfer stick to other shoulder body swing.

3 back to back on the side "the doobry":- 1+6 face down, 2+5 face up and do back to back rt, 1 with 2, 6 with number 5. At same time 3+4 face each other & do the doobry:- a back to back with a bit more!? Use 3 steps for close back to back 4th step on the spot in 1 line 5th-8th steps to place. Repeat left, while 3+4 unwind the doobry.

4 Cast: All face up. 1+6 start it by clashing tips once and cast out, others dance up and clash in tops place and cast out. Stop when in reverse positions. 2nd ½ 1+6 clash and cast in, 1 in front of 6, rest dance down & clash in bottom place, cast in odd in front of even. All dance off in 1 line.

PRESCOT CLOCK DANCE

Border style. 2 short sticks. Set of 8. Single stepping throughout, starting on L. Right stick on shoulder, left stick swinging in time by side unless stated otherwise. All swing the same way!

Sources

Various, including: the dancing of Wakefield Morris as seen in 1991 at Lowton; notes from the late Jim McCaffery (Kern Morris) based on figures taught by his wife, who came from Prescott; Lyn's family cine film from Prescott Carnival of 1936; memories from a Prescott resident of pre-war carnival. This material was modified into Border style, while retaining some of its North-West flavour, for the dancing of Mucky Mountains Morris (of St Helens, near Prescott) by Lyn and Alan Goodkin 1996. Prescott was famous for its watch making industry.

Music

Donkey Riding, Cock of the North or tune written by Sally Edmondson in 1998. Figures A music, chorus B.

Coming On. No 1 leads on followed by rest in numerical order down middle and cast up to places.

Figures

1 WIND UP (Cast in and up in pairs) 16 bars

Bottom pair cast up middle: surge for 2 bars while the rest dance backwards by one place in first 2 bars, then everyone dances 2 bars on the spot. Repeat till back to place.

2 FLYWHEEL (Circle and star) 16 bars

Middle 4 star right (ie clockwise!) while other 4 circle around them anticlockwise for 8 bars (not 4) then come back the other way.

[OMITTED as can look a mess! 2a BIG COG (Star for 8) 16 bars

Middle 4 form up a right hand star. Outer 4 link arms with nearest person (outside person to put arm over inside person). Sticks kept vertical. Use first 2 bars to set it up then start moving on 3rd clockwise, break on 8th, turn singly, set up star, then start moving anticlockwise, aim to get back to place by 16th!]

3 LITTLE COGS (Right and left hand stars) 16 bars

Two groups of 4 right hand star to half way for 2 bars. Middle 4 left hand star to half way, while end pairs left hand turn for 2 bars. Repeat till all back to place. (Figure alternates 2 RH* at ends – LH* in centre/LH turn at ends)

4 WATCH CHAIN (Grand chain) 16 bars

Top and bottom pair face each other, sides turn to face each other along the side and widen set into a big circle. Use first bar to set it up. Grand chain passing right shoulder first, plenty of time so keep circle large. Use last couple of bars to re-form set. Current style is to clash twice on spot (nearest stick) with each person as you reach them and travel during rest of phrase (you have to clash immediately the figure begins).

5 WIND DOWN (Cross and cast out) 16 bars

Set faces up, everybody stepping throughout whole figure. Top pair cross passing right shoulders and cast out to bottom and cross back into line left shoulders. Rest of set meanwhile have moved up one place during 2nd bar. Then on second 2 bars clash own sticks tick tock tick tock (higher looks showier). Repeat

till all back to place. To make things neater, at the very start of the figure, 7 and 8 cross at the same time as 1 and 2, so they don't have to rush into a final cross before the chorus.

Chorus

CLOCK (Sticking) 16 bars

Set up a circle. Keep it neat and small enough to reach with sticks while the first hit is happening (middles step out slightly, tops & bottoms step down and up).

1 faces 2. All the rest face anticlockwise, ie face 2's back. 1 hits 2 tick tock ie right tip with right tip, left tip with left tip. 2 spins round following direction of last hit (ie all spins are clockwise) and strikes with 4. Repeat all round circle (1-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-7, 7-5, 5-3, 3-1). Stay facing clockwise with sticks held as normal (R on shoulder, L held low with L arm relaxed). Then take the tick tock back the other way starting with 1 striking 3 (spins still clockwise). On last bar while 2 strikes with 1 all step back into set. We now add a complication (invented by Molonglo Mayhem Morris, now defunct, from Canberra – started by Paul & Leslie Carr formerly of MMM) with number 7 starting sticking with no 8 at the same time as nos 1 & 2, and progressing in the same direction etc. This means that at various times some in the set are facing anticlockwise.

Finish dance with chorus, but clash own sticks on last beat, staying in circle. No. 7 leads off single file up the middle.

DILWYN

border style:- sticks on shoulders when not in use, vigorous single stepping unless otherwise stated, more emphasis on downbeat. Short sticks.

Source - "A BACKWARD DANCE" - based on a traditional dance from Dilwyn; this version from an "All Fools Workshop" several years ago. **Music** "Not for Joe"

FIGURES :-

SQUIRE'S ROOTS (hey started by 1 dancing between 2 & 4 and turning left into a reel of 3, also 6 round back of 5 & 3 joins into reel). Repeat.

BAGMAN'S ROOTS (hey similar but started by bagmen so 2, 1 & 3 hey also 5, 6 & 4 hey). Repeat.

HEYBACK: middles only do back to backs (remember to turn right first): 3 with 5 first and 4 with 2, while 1 & 6 do face to face & back into opposite's place, middles then b to b with the other corner while positions 2 & 5 do face to face etc till all back to place)

RATS (STAR BACKWARDS) Put right stick in centre vertically, 7 steps backwards (ie anti-clockwise), turn on 8th, 7 steps back the other way, turn on 8th, 2 steps forward in tight star, then widen into big rounds and continue till 15th bar then on 16th all jump to face out, present stick above head and shout "rats"!

CHORUS:-

STICKING and CROSSOVER

Sticking: Tips of sticks backhand backhand to partner, then tips fore back fore, middles with tops first then with bottoms and repeat. ie tops turn down first & do it with middles, then tops do it with each other and repeat the whole sequence. While bottoms do it with each other then turn up to do it with middles and repeat the whole sequence. NB Always do backhand backhand with your partner.

Cross over

Cross over diagonally (odds in front) turn with bums in, turning on 3rd/4th step. Dance backwards for 4 steps, then dance forwards for 4 and cross diagonally back to position for 4 steps with evens going in front. (The original All Fools version used to do all into one line for going backwards – easier to make it look neater, called "Into Line")

DILWYN FOR 4

Composed by MMM at Colwyn Bay.

Chorus Sticking as above but middles don't turn down.

"Colwyn Hey" instead of Dilwyn Hey: 1st corner (squires) face to face, while 2nd corners (bagmen) squircle! (square the circle). Then bagmen face to face while squires squircle. Repeat.

Squires Hey: 1st squire starts it, 2nd bagman stands out & does own thing, on repeat "2nd squire starts it & 1st bagman does own thing.

Bagman's Hey: 1st bagman starts it, 2nd squire does own thing, on repeat 2nd bagman starts it, 1st squire does own thing - whatever!

BOBBY SHAFTOE

(done by MMM currently only as an all in dance)

A simplified version of Brimfield but done by MMM to bring children in so have dancers on outside of line of 4 and children on inside and don't swop positions.

CHORUS Clashing tips followed by figure of 8 for outside dancers around middles who dance on spot.

FIGURES: anything called eg back to back, set right and left, star, big rounds.

AFRICAN SWALLOW

Dance created by MMM (Tim and Jane Brewster). Music *Cocking the Chafer* by John Kirkpatrick..

FIGURES: ROUNDS, BACK TO BACK, CLOVER LEAF, HEY, (BASKET) now THREADING THE NEEDLE (mnemonic Roger Bird Can Have Bed!)

CHORUS: Sticking in triangle started by top apex, whole rounds. Repeat started by middle of triangle base.

TINNERS RABBIT

Mainly done as an all in dance.

Tune : Uncle Bernard's - A(AB)⁵

Format : Sets of 3 in a circle.

Sequence : Dance On, Chorus, 1 Fig 8, Chorus, 2 Fig 8, Chorus, 3 Fig 8, Chorus, Star Right, Chorus, Star Left Clashing, Chorus.

Dance On In a line, 1 followed by 2 followed by 3, anti-clockwise into a set.

Chorus Sticking (two handed) 1 clash with 2, 2 clash 3, 3 clash 1, 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 3 & 1, 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 3 & 1, 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 3 & 1, All 3 on ground. (12 clashes, 3 on ground.)

Fig 8 Dancing person goes between the other two (who stand still) and dances one and a half times a Figure of Eight. (Round the person on the Right, Round the person on the Left, Round the person on the Right and back to place.)

Star Right Right hand Star sticks in the middle.

Star Left Left hand Star, sticks in right hand clashing with other sets.

Last Chorus Only two strikes on the ground, jump to face out, holding stick above head.

GREENHAM

Source - Made up by women of Greenham Common

Any even number. Used as all in dance. Music: Speed The Plough (or Kafoozalum or any hornpipe or reel)

Started by one pair then cumulative. Single stepping. Hankies do wave from shoulder.

something like, arm swing rt & lt, ss rt, ss left, turn single, repeat.