

SECTION 9: RECENT COTSWOLD-STYLE DANCE IDEAS

RECENT STICK DANCES

Good invented dances are usually simple in concept. Such ideas are not so easy to come by, but occasionally a dance such as Balance the Straw (Fieldtown) occurs with nearly universal appeal. The old sides often got new dances via their musicians who would play for more than one team. The turn over of ideas is one significant part of the tradition. Here are some dances that have been seen which can be adapted into almost any traditional style.

BEANSETTING: tune, Brackley "Beansetting" ; source, Dorset Knobs and Knockers, Stalbridge, Dorset.

Bars 1-2 Opposites cross over, Approach with 3 dibs and hit butts forward with opposite.

Bars 3-4 Pass right shoulder to opposite's place and turn to right to face front with 3 more dibs and then No.1 hits No.3's stick on mid beat of bar 4.

Bars 5-6 3 hits 5, 5 hits 6, 6 hits 4, 4 hits 2 on successive main beats. Hitter hits down with a big swing, receiver holds stick out to be hit.

Bars 7-8 Twirl stick through a figure 8 & hit opposite stick with tips as end of Beaux Badby chorus, feet still.
Repeat to place.

BOLD ARETHUSA: tune, "Princess Royal" ; source, Sheffield MM.

Bar 1 Start to cross over with 1 double step, passing right shoulder & hitting tips left to right and then right to left on the main beats.

Bar 2 Continue with a step and jump landing feet together in opposite's place facing out.

Bars 3-4 Galley right to face front, ending with step and feet together & hitting tips from right to left.

Bar 5 Standing still, hit tips, partner left to right, person diagonally to right, right to left.

Bar 6 Hit partner right to left and person diagonally to left from right to left.

Bars 7-8 as Bars 5-6

Bars 9 - 12 Half Hey.

Repeat to place.

THE BULL: tune, The Archers signature tune on the Radio; source, Great Western Morris.

Bar 1 Middles face down and hold sticks horizontally overhead. Tops hit middles' sticks with tips while bottoms clash tips across the set.

Bar 2 Middles face up and bottoms hit them, while tops hit across.

Bar 3 Bottoms face down and hold sticks horizontally over heads and middles hit them while tops hit across.

Bar 4 Tops face up and middles hit them while bottoms hit across.

Bars 5-8 Half Hey

Repeat mirror image of above to place.

COUNTRY GARDENS: tune, "Country Gardens" ; source Windsor Morris.

Bar 1 Hit tips high from right to left, then hit tips low from left to right

Bar 2 as Bar 1

Bar 3 Both hold sticks as for Headington dances . Odds hit evens stick which is held still. Odd tip hit evens tip, odds butt hit evens tip, odds tip hit evens butt, odds butt hit evens butt.

Bar 4 Odds hold stick still and evens hit. Evens tip hit odds tip, evens butt hit odds butt and both clash tips together.

Repeat or half hey and repeat all.

GREENCOATS: tune "Brighton Camp" or "Rose Tree"; source, Abercorn Stave Dancers, Mants.

Danced in units of 4. Hold sticks as Adderbury "doubles".

Bar 1 Beat 1 Nos 1 & 4 hit middle of 2 & 3's sticks with tips respectively, across set.
Beat 3 Nos 2 & 3 ditto to 1 & 4.

Bar 2 Beat 1 Nos 1 & 4 hit middle of 3 & 2's sticks respectively, along sides of set.
Beat 3 Nos 3 & 2 ditto to 1 & 4.

Bar 3 Beat 1 Nos 1 & 4 change places, both turning to their left, so they pass back to back and hit Nos 2 & 3 respectively as they pass.

Beat 3 Nos 2 & 3, who have not moved, hit Nos 4 & 1 respectively across the set.

Bar 4 Beat 1 Nos 2 & 3 change place across the diagonal, turning to their left so as to pass back to back & are hit by 4 & 1

Beat 3 Nos 2 & 3 hit Nos 4 & 1 along the sides of the set.

Repeat to place. Could elaborate and progress round an 8 set like Lichfield hey pattern.

HAPPY MAN: tune, Adderbury "Happy Man"; source, Bath City Morris.

Tune and words on "Son of Morris On" record. Tune is in 3/4 time and irregular in length.

Figures: danced through without hops and a heavy step on the first beat of each bar.

$\underline{1}$ r $\underline{1}$ / \underline{x} $\underline{1}$ r/ $\underline{1}$ r $\underline{1}$ / \underline{x} $\underline{1}$ r/ $\underline{1}$ r $\underline{1}$ / \underline{x} $\underline{1}$ r/ $\underline{1}$ r $\underline{1}$ / \underline{x} $\underline{1}$ r// $\underline{1}$ r $\underline{1}$ / tog. - -//

forward.... back..... forward.... back..... on spot

Chorus: following Bacon's notation,

o e e/o e e/o e o/e x -/e o o/e o o/e o e/x - -//

THREE MUSKETEERS: tune, "Brighton Camp" or "Young Collins"; source, Wheatsheaf MM.

This has been spread to the USA as well as around the UK and several sides now claim to have invented it!

Normal formation is $\begin{matrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 \end{matrix}$ Danced rather aggressively like a sword fight.

Bar 1 Leap into new formation $\begin{matrix} 2-4 \\ 1-6 \\ 3-5 \end{matrix}$ and hit tips high right to left and tips low left to right, 2 with 4, 1 with 6 and 3 with 5.

Bar 2 Leap into another formation $\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ & 3 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix}$ and hit tips high & low as bar 1

Bar 3-4 Face across to usual opposite in normal formation and hit tips high, right to left, low left to right, high right to left and high left to right.

Half Hey and repeat to place.

It helps to impress the public to shout a bit and stamp the leading foot at the clashes.

Thanks are given to each side from whom a dance has been "borrowed".