

MINDEN ROSE

THE HOP PICKERS

Steps : hop or hornpipe, arms swing alternately.

Tune : Three Jolly Sheepskins from Locke of Herefordshire played slowly

Source: Based on the first group photo at the Community Centre

Title : symbolic of the hop vines etc etc

Formation : set of 12 in 3 rows of 4 - useful to follow Alton Morris.

Each dancer carried two sticks and the centre two files hold a garland between each pair.

Music - played AABBB - if slower can be done in AAEBB, if faster need more

The outside files dance forward, cross at the top by right shoulders and dance a sheepskin hey on the other side. After three changes they come out of the hey at the top of the set, cast down the outside, still on the other side to which they started, come up the middle under the garlands shoulder to shoulder, ending inside the pair they started outside. They then put both their sticks into their outside hand, take the end of the garland from their neighbour and all step sideways one pace so that the former active 6 now hold the garlands and the former holders are ready to start the sequence.

This sequence is done 4 times so that dancers end where they started.

EXIT - as complete fourth turn and come up centre, dance straight on and off dancing area followed by the garland carriers to music played AB.

SHEEPSKIN HEY - the line of 3 dancers do a reel around the 3 pillars on their side passing alternate shoulders and tracing what is in effect a 3 loop figure 8. As the last of the 3 passes the middle pillar they turn back by continuing around that dancer to face the other way and so switching from last of the 3 to first of the 3. Thus each of the 3 is last past the middle in turn and turns back to take the lead. The two sides of the set are mirror images. As pairs come in to be shoulder to shoulder in the hey they clash their inside sticks together, there should be one clash heard every bar - although we are often not quite quick enough getting round.

