

ASTWOOD BANK LONG HO!

Source : film of Paradise Islanders on a New Year's Day.

Music : "Oh Sussanah"

Steps : hopsteps

Sticks : long, as Upton on Severn.

Set : 6 dancers in one line facing in pairs.

This dance is a mix of Upton on Severn and Brimfield.

1. **STICKING** : facing in pairs strike as in Upton on Severn stick dance, tips and butts alternately, one of either per bar.
2. **LOOP** : all hit tips forehand and dance a loop backwards to the left in 4 bars and dance 4 bars in the line. The middle two pairs go round each other. > < > < > <
3. **HIT & HO** : inner pairs face and stick (?) like Brimfield (?) while the two ends dance a figure eight around them, passing the pairs by the right shoulder first.
4. **STICKING**
5. **LOOP**
6. **CHANGE** : face in pairs as at start, dance a partial back-to-back passing right shoulders but only going around three quarters to face across the set which is now in two lines of three. Back-to-back right shoulders again, this time across the set
7. **STICKS ACROSS THE SET**
8. **LOOP** : to the left as 2 but in the new formation.
9. **BACK** : Back-to-back passing left shoulders across the set ending with the dancers in the two lines of three but facing 90° to their right, up and down the set. Back-to-back along the set, passing 2 dancers by the left shoulder and retiring to end in a single line of six.
10. **STICKING**
11. **LOOP**
12. **REEL OF SIX** : danced 1½ times through to reverse the set.
13. **STICKING**
14. **LOOP**
15. **STARS** : hands across in threes, Nos. 1, 2 and 4, Nos. 3, 5 and 6, two times around.

Repeat entire sequence till back in place.

End with a **STICK** and a **LOOP**.

BARLEY BREE

Source : film of West Somerset Morris Men at Minehead. A development of the Upton on Severn stick dance for eight men.
Music : usual Newfoundland tune, also used by Chingford and Albion.
Steps : 1 2 3 h etc but end each phrase in the 4th or 8th bar as appropriate with a step onto the left foot on the first beat, and then two stamps, right and left on the 2nd and 3rd beats.
Sticks : long. Start each movement with hitting the opposite's stick tip right to left on the first beat of the first bar.
Set : 8 men in two lines.

ORDER OF MOVEMENTS

ONCE-TO-YOURSELF : face partner, hold stick in the middle vertically and in front of the body as at Adderbury, and do so throughout the dance when not clashing.

WHOLE ROUNDS 1 : face partner, fall back for 2 bars, dance whole rounds clockwise, ending facing in ready for sticking with the stamps in bar 8.

STICKS 1 : (a) for 4 bars stand with feet together and clash with opposite,

→ +
/ butts - tips - /
l to r r to l

(b) for 4 bars, clash on the first beat and dance an individual circle or loop anticlockwise, ending with the stamps.

(c) for 8 bars repeat all this.

BACK-TO-BACK : 4 bars each way, pass right shoulders first half and then left shoulders the second half.

STICKS 2 : like "Black Joke" Bledington, stand and clash tips,

Bar 1 : partner r to l + , right diagonal l to r → ,

Bar 2 : left diagonal r to l + , partner l to r → ,

Bar 3 : partner l to r → left diagonal r to l + ,

Bar 4 : right diagonal l to r → , partner r to l + .

Bars 5-8 : clash on the first beat and dance a separate loop anticlockwise.

Repeat all this.

FOUR TOP : first and third pair move apart (backwards) while the other pairs cross, passing right shoulders and moving a little to the side to be between the other pair, to go into a reel of four with their neighbours, passing right shoulders to start. Dance the last two bars in place and stamp.

STICKS 3 : face opposite and stand still clashing,

Each Bar : high clash tips r to l + , low clash tips l to r → , for four bars,

arm circling anticlockwise.

Bars 5-8 : clash on the first beat and dance a separate loop anticlockwise.

Repeat all this.

DOUBLE ROUNDS 1 : concentric rounds, the end four dancers go around the middle four. The outer four move apart from their opposites for two bars, so that the set become a cross, and then dance whole rounds once clockwise. The inner four dance around anticlockwise twice. All end on the diagonals facing neighbours in pairs.

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      7       1
        5   3
          6   4
      8       2
  
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STICKS 4 : sticking as in STICKS 1 with neighbour along diagonal. For the loops/circles in bars 5-8, the ends (1, 2, 7 & 8) make an individual loop anticlockwise while the middle four do a half rounds anticlockwise. The second half of the movement is a repeat.

DOUBLE ROUNDS 2 : concentric rounds as above but ending in column formation.

STICKS 5 : sticking as STICKS 2.

HEY SIDES : reels of four along the sides, started progressively from the top, the two pairs passing right shoulders to start.

STICKS 6 : sticking as STICKS 3.

WHOLE ROUNDS 2 : all back away from opposite for 2 bars, off for whole rounds, end facing all up with sticks crossed high in the air.

EAST ACTON STICK DANCE

From : A Hancock TV show of about 1955, as performed by Tony Hancock, Bill Keer, and Sid James, dressed in Top Hat, Forest of Dean shirt (like Beaux) and britches and each carrying a long stick.

Steps : single steps.

Set : three dancers in one line facing to the side (to audience).
Suggest make it a set of six in two rows of three.

A1 : Foot-up twice to the audience.

B1 : Middle dancer sticks with the right hand dancer, then repeats with the left hand dancer : (suggest, hit tips right to left and butts left to right while plain capering, 4 bars with each dancer).

A2 : Reel of Three, the middle going to the right first.

E2 : Middle elbow swings the right hand and then the left hand dancer.

A3 : Foot-up twice as A1 - but in a different direction, *say to the right.*

B3 : as B1.

A4 : as A2.

B4 : Middle man do-si-do's the right hand and then the left hand dancer. ad lib to this pattern, *introducing new figures at B6 (star or hands across, B8 etc (rounds for 6 and off) and foot-down on A5, foot-to-the-left on A7, and perhaps foot-up again on A9.*

ALTERNATE FIGURES

Star, but at half way and at end reverse direction by casting out, all following No.1, so that the order is reversed, and forming a circle a little to the side of the original star. No.1 followed by the others traces a near figure of eight path that is not a hey.

Star, right handed, and each dancer in turn pops under the arch made by the other two (without letting go of the star at the ends of bars 2, 4 and 6. The first two can turn the easy way going under but the last has to do a reverse direction of turn to avoid twisting an arm). Turn out (alone) to come back and repeat it all left handed.

EAST ACTON HANDCLAPPING DANCE

From : Denise Upton based on the above without sticks.

As above, but handclapping instead of sticking in B1, B3 etc. Stay with something simple like r+r, r+r, r+r - / l+l, l+l, l+l - / etc for 4 bars with each end dancer.

ALTERNATE LAST FIGURE

Ring, No.1 pops under at start without letting go, turns to face centre so that all have hands crossed in a clover leaf and "basket" round to the left to end the dance.

LEOMINSTER

Source : sent by David Robinson in 1991, as taught at workshops, not the same as in Morris Federation Archives.

Music : "Three Jolly Sheepskins"

Steps : combined shopsteps and doubles : / l hl r hr / l r l hl //

Sticks : 18 inch long, clash in rhythm : / x - x - / x x x - / 4 times.

Set : 8 dancers in two lines, facing.

ORDER OF FIGURES

1. **CHASSEZ** : Face up and chassez to side, the evens behind the odds, 4 bars each way.

CHORUS

2. **STAR RIGHT & LEFT** : 4 bars each way.

CHORUS

3. **ROUNDS IN FOURS** : Each corner of square danced 2 hopsteps & bow on the double.

CHORUS

4. **WHOLE HEY** : on the side.

CHORUS & FINISH.

SHROPSHIRE MORRIS

Source : Abercorn Stave Dancers interpretation of mss.
Sticks : Short or medium length sticks, one each. Sloped over right shoulder when not being used.
Step : either single or double but not both.
Set : Even number of dancers, but unlimited (within reason!), start in a large ring facing the centre.

FIGURES

1. All dance to the centre of the ring and retire to their starting places, dance to the centre again, and retire only to form a column facing opposites ready for the first chorus.
2. All face up and Foot-Up-&-Back twice.
3. All dance a Cross-Over-&-Back, going as far as practical.
4. All face down and Foot-Down-&-Back twice.
5. Whole Rounds spiralling out to starting radius.

CHORUS ONE - "BEATINGS" - setting up the birds, shooting and celebrating.

ENDS : (a) dance down the middle to the other end in 4 bars, passing the other end by the right shoulder. Repeat to place after second part of the chorus.
(b) tops down the middle and the bottoms up the outside, the bottoms casting out to start. Repeat with new tops.
(c) both, casting out to start, change down outside of the set.
(d) no changing ends, do as rest of set.

REST : retire with 4 walking steps, hitting the ground, /x - x -/ x x x -/
approach with 3 steps and a spring, hitting the ground /x - x -/
then swing stick back and clash with opposite.

THEN all, including the ends, waist swing opposites for second part of each half of chorus.

CHORUS TWO - "RATTLING GOOD TIME"

Face across and stick in two rows.

- Bar 1 : hit diagonally to right backhand, partner forehand, partner backhand, diagonally to left forehand.
Bar 2 : hit diagonally to left forehand, partner backhand, partner forehand, diagonally to right backhand.
Bar 3 : as bar 1.
Bar 4 : single backhand hit of partner, pause, forehand of partner.
Bar 5 : hit diagonally to left forehand, partner backhand, partner forehand, diagonally to right backhand.
Bar 6 : hit diagonally to right backhand, partner forehand, partner backhand, diagonally to left forehand.
Bar 7 : as bar 5.
Bar 8 : single forehand hit of partner, pause, then another forehand..

dr+ pt+ pt+ dl+/dl+ pt+ pt+ dr+/dr+ pt+ pt+ dl+/pt+ - pt+ - /

dl- pt+ pt+ dr+/dr+ pt+ pt+ dl+/dl+ pt+ pt+ dr+/pt+ - pt+ - //

STEEPLE CLAYDON — ROGUE MORRIS

Source : film of Rogue Morris of Oxford dancing as various times.

Music : "Old Mother Oxford".

Sticks : two sticks used.

Clash : b = clash both own sticks together in front of chest,
 r+r = pairs clash right hand sticks together,
 l+l = pairs clash lefts,
 beh = clash own behind body at waist level,
 un = clash under a raised leg.

The following sequences are done twice through. If dancer at end of set is neutral then they wave in the air instead of hitting.

STICKS I / b - r+r - / b beh b - / b - l+l - / b beh b -/

STICKS II / b - r+r r+r / b - l+l l+l / b un.r b un.l / b beh b -/

Step : stephops.

Set : six dancers in a long line facing in pairs. 1) <2 3> <4 5> <6.

1. Half Reel of Six. Start passing right shoulders with the one facing.
2. Sticks I
3. Half Reel of Six.
4. Sticks I
5. Half Reel of Six but end facing other way, <1 2> <3 4> <5 6>.
6. Sticks I
7. Half Reel of Six ending as 5.
8. Sticks I
9. Half Reel of Six, end as at start, as 1. 1) <2 3> <4 5> <6.
10. Sticks II
11. Half Reel of Six.
12. Sticks II
13. Half Reel of Six but end facing other way, <1 2> <3 4> <5 6>.
14. Sticks II
15. Half Reel of Six ending as 13.
16. Sticks II and $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to face other way,
17. Sticks II and end.

A "PERSHORE"

Source : Iron Men at Sidmouth.

Music :

Steps : hopsteps.

Sticks : short stick each.

Set : 8 dancers, initially in a circle, but mostly in two lines of 4.

This so called Pershore dance is a variant of the common "Wenlock" family.

OTYS : stand in circle with sticks in the centre making a star (basket).

1. ROUNDS : whole rounds with sticks on shoulders, facing across in bar 8.
2. STICKS : odds strike evens who hold their sticks still in
Brimfield/Wenlock fashion.

/ f b f b f / f b f b / b - f - / b f b - //
- then evens hit odds in th same rhythm.
3. HEY : Worcester heys for four, tops go between top middles, bottom
two pairs turn out at the bottom, bottom middles following the
bottoms.
4. STICKS
5. CROSS OVER : partners pass left shoulders and turn to the right to face
back, waist swing with opposite three times round to end in
starting place.
6. STICKS
7. HEY
8. STICKS
9. STARS : first half hands across in fours, turn out at half way, into
middle star back and end pairs waist swing.
10. STICKS
11. HEY
12. STICKS
13. CROSS OVER
14. STICKS
15. HEY
16. STICKS
17. ROUNDS : whole rounds clockwise, turning out at the end and hitting
down onto the fool who has moved int the centre of the set.

THAMES VALLEY BORDER DANCE revised

- Source** : Thames Valley Morris at the Isle of Wight Ring Meeting 1984.
Sticks : short stick in right hand, handkerchief in left. Persons actually on the odd side always strike those actually on the even side.
Steps : stephops without pause. Arms swung alternately, opposite arm up to leg down.
Set : eight dancers in two rows facing.

STICKING : Those on the Evens side "hold" their stick, with an element of the "posture", as in "Maiden's Prayer", while those on the Odds side hit.

The rhythm is / x+ - x+ - / x+ x+ x+ - / x+ - x+ - / x+ x+ x+ - // twice

for 8 bars, and the hits are alternately right to left and left to right. This sticking is normally used between figures.

ORDER OF MOVEMENTS

1. Dance on Spot, 8 bars. Sticking.
2. Dance on Spot, 8 bars. Sticking.
3. Half Cross Over, pass right shoulders, two bars, turn to right, two bars, approach for 2 bars and dance 2 bars on the spot. Sticking.
4. Half Cross Over, etc as 2. Sticking.
5. In fours dance a right hand star, Texas style holding wrist of person in front, going two and half times round clockwise to change sides of the set. Sticking.
6. In fours dance a left hand star two and half times round to starting place. Sticking.
7. Reel of Eight along centre of set, going in right shoulders to opposite and turning to face opposite along the centreline, alternating arm swings, taking eight bars - and leading off from the top progressively into an anticlockwise circle and off the dance area.

WENLOCK

Source : ? the notation will be more certain when I find the source!

Music : Not For Joe

Steps : hopsteps?

Sticks : short?

Set : 6 dancers in two lines.

STICKING : tap 16 times right to left. Presumably one side only hitting, the other holding stick stationary. Presumably occurring between each figure.

FIGURES

1. **WHOLE-ROUNDS** : dance round for 6 bars and face opposite for 2 bars.
2. **STICKS**
3. **HALF-CROSS-OVER** : pass left shoulders, turn to the left to come back, and left elbow swing opposite to end on own side.
4. **CIRCULAR-HEY** : start progressively by passing right shoulders across at the top of the set.
5. **HALF-CROSS-OVER**
6. **SIX-HAND-STAR** : right hand star for 8 bars and turn out and 8 bars back with the left.
7. **CIRCULAR-HEY** : as 4.
8. **HALF-CROSS-OVER**
9. **WHOLE-ROUNDS-&-OFF**

I would have had the HALF-CROSS-OVERs end on the wrong side, and had another between figures 6 and 7, also the second CIRCULAR-HEY start at the bottom. I guess that the source team wanted it simpler.