FROM TWO BARNS



TEN COUNTRY DANCES FOR 2005

Mostly from the collections of Walsh and Johnson

Why "From Two Barns"?

After moving to West Oxfordshire in 1959 we became associated with a small country dance group organized by Dr. Kathleen Briggs and her two sisters. We met on a Wednesday evening in the library of Barn House, next to The Countryman Office in Burford. Several people "called" for these evenings including Nibs Mathews who at that time was living in Cheltenham. Music was provided by Mrs. Brenda Mc Greggor of Leafield playing a Dulcetone. One had to dance quietly or you could not hear it!

The library at Barn House contained a number of ORIGINAL dance collections such as Thompson, Johnson, Rutherford and Walsh. There were even facsimiles of Playford's Dancing Master. Also on the shelf were two copies of "Wilson's Companion To The Ballroom dated 1810" or thereabouts. One evening, after we had finished dancing, Dr. Briggs presented me with one of these books saying "I don't think this collection has been mined. Perhaps you would like to have this book and see what you can find in it".

Over the next five years or so I took several dances, or ideas for dances, from the book and played through most of the tunes. Then T.S.R.2. was cancelled, and they would have cancelled Concorde too, if they could, and this activity was put on hold until one Thursday evening at a Witney Club dance Blackie Blackwell produced a mint copy of Thompson's Compleat Collection Volume 1 and Sun Assembly came to light. The dance was tried out, first as a triple minor, and then introduced at a dance in Long Compton in the mid 1970s. It took off, and when in 1981 Miss Marjorie Fennessy asked me where I got it from, as the Kenton Ramblers were thinking of recording it, I thought it was about time that this and some of the other dances from Wilson and Wright were republished.

By this time we were living at Eynsham having restored a 1720s Oxfordshire barn which, because of its central galleried hall, had been named Hall Barn. Thus a gift from Barn House, Burford, started a chain of events which has led to the publication of 100 dances from Hall Barn, Eynsham.

FOREWORD

And so for the last in the series. The original idea was to produce a book of ten dances each year for ten years. A sort of metric collection, as much to grieve the passing of the Imperial System as accepting the mistake of the Metric imposition. The time scale slipped a bit as other activities and problems "got in the way," but here it is.

In each case the tune has been the inspiration for the inclusion or composition of a dance. With the exception of "Alice Where Art Thou" and "Hewlett" the melodies have been reproduced as found with the key and time signatures unchanged.

The tune "Alice Where Art Thou" will be recognised as the introduction to the B.B.C. comedy "Open All Hours". I was unable to find out from the Corporation who wrote the tune or who owned the copyright and I am indebted to Mr, (Ronnie) Barker, who gave me the title, and to Mike Heaney for supplying the details of the publication. The tune is taken from "The Nation's Music" Vol. 1. The "A" music is as written, the "B" music is a combination of the air and the accompaniment. The key signature of "Hewlett" has been changed from A, as given in "The Complete Works of O'Carolan", to D to bring it within the compass of the violin.

Other sources used were "Johnson's Choice Collection of 200 Dances". Vol. 5, 6, and 7, "The Compleat Country Dancing Master" (Walsh 1718) and "The Second Book Of The Compleat Country Dancing Master" (1719).

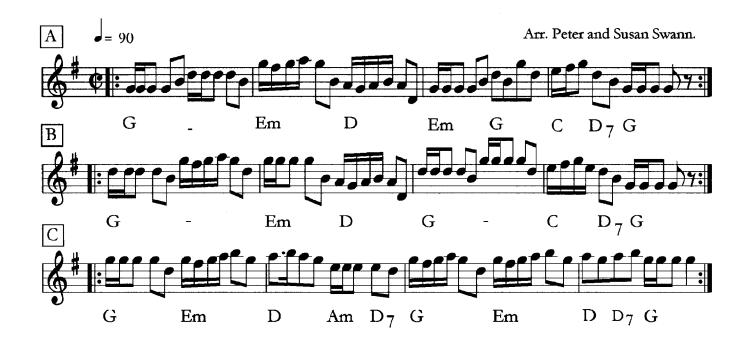
I am again grateful to the many dancers who have patiently endured the experiments necessary to prove that the dances work. My thanks are also due to Susan and Peter Swann for the musical arrangements and to Pam whose assistance in preparing this book has been invaluable.

Ken Sheffield
Hall Barn
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June 30th 2005

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1 SOFT AND SWEET



Set dance for three couples.

Play AABBCC Three times.

- A1 1st couple set right and left, cross over and cast. 1st man dance a right hand star once round with 2nd and 3rd women as the 1st woman dances a left hand star with the 2nd and 3rd men.

 First couple finish in middle place improper.
- A2 1st couple set right and left. 1st woman cast to the bottom of the set and left hand star with the 3rd couple as the 1st man casts to the top and left hand star with the 2nd couple.

 Finish in lines of three facing with the 1st couple in the middle of the lines.
- B1 1st couple gipsy right three quarters to their own side then all circle left for six once round.
- B2 Circular hey once round. (1st couple in middle place face down to start).
- C1 1st couple cross over. 1st man lead out 2nd and 3rd women while 1st woman leads out 2nd and 3rd men. Lines fall back. 1st couple turn to face and turn 2 two hands half way round while the 2nd and 3rd women and the 2nd and 3rd men turn two hands half way round. (Progression).
- C2 1st man lead out 2nd and 3rd men while the 1st woman leads out the 2nd and 3rd women. Lines fall back and turn right to face then all turn partner two hands once round.

Source. "Johnson's Choice Collection" Vol. 7. No.117.

2 I WONDER AT IT



Set dance for five couples longways.

Play AABB Five times.

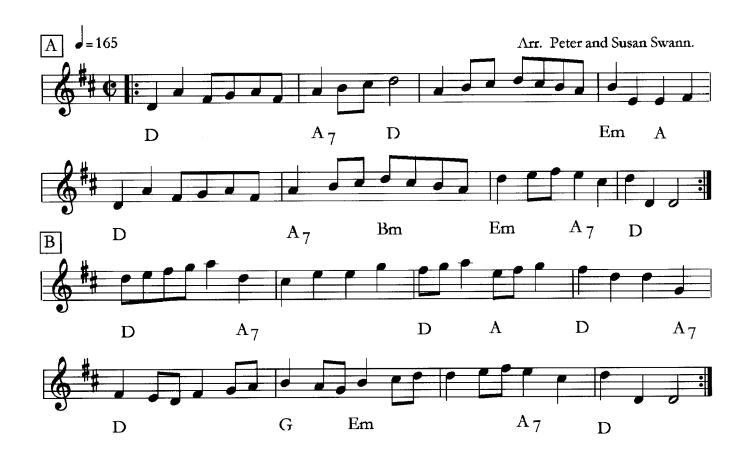
- A1 1-4 All up and back a double. 5-8 All set and turn single.
- A2 1-4 Top couple up and back a double, 2nd 3rd and 4th women a double to the women's wall and back, 2nd 3rd and 4th men a double to the men's wall and back, and the 5th couple down a double and back. (Bomb burst).
 - 5-8 All set and turn single.
- B1 1-4 1st woman and 5th man cross the set and dance anti-clockwise round the set to the opposite corner while 1st 2nd 3rd and 4th men and the 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th women face diagonally right, set <u>left</u> and right, cross over passing left shoulder and turn left into a ring of ten with the 1st woman and the 5th man.
 - 5-8 All circle right half way round.
- B2 1-4 4th man and 2nd woman, (from the top and bottom corners of the set), dance clockwise round the set to the opposite corners while the 3rd 2nd 1st and 5th men and the 1st 5th 4th and 3rd women face diagonally left, set right and left, cross over passing right shoulder and turn right into a ring of ten with the 2nd woman and 4th man.
 - 5-8 All circle left half way round.

The woman's side is now 34512 and the men's side is 45123 all proper. Repeat 4 times to return the set to its original position.

The progression also works for a three couple set in which case the tune should be played AABB three times.

Source. Tune. "Johnson's Choice Collection". Vol. 7. No. 177. Dance. Ken Sheffield.

3 SHEPHERDS ROUND



Set dance for three couples.

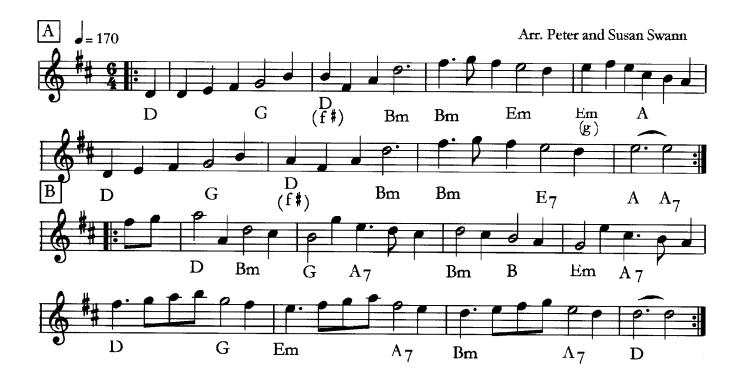
Play AABB Three times.

- A1 1st couple set right and left, turn with the right hand once and a half round, and cast off improper to a position half way between the 2nd and 3rd couples on the outside of the set, as the 2nd couple move up and face out, and the 3rd couple turn down and away to face out.
- A2 In groups of three on the sides of the set all set right and left towards the centre of each group, turn single moving out then each group circle left half way round. (The 1st couple should now be standing improper and back to back in the centre of the set). 1st couple, turning to their right, cross over to finish in middle place facing out.

 The set is now 3 1 2.
- B1 1st couple cast off round the 2nd couple, cross up through them, and dance round the outside of the 3rd couple at the top, and cross into middle place proper facing down.
- B2 Circular hey once round. (Middle couple face down, bottom couple face up and top couple face each other to start).

Source. "Johnson's Choice Collection". Vol. 6. No. 138.

4 BRITAINS GLORY



Longways for as many as will. Duple minor set.

Play AABB Ad Lib.

- A1 1st man and 2nd woman turn two hands once round, then 1st man cast off into the 2nd man's place as the 2nd man moves up, and the 2nd woman casts up into the 1st woman's place as the 1st woman moves down.
- A2 2nd man and 1st woman turn two hands anti-clockwise once round, then 2nd man cast off into his original position as the 1st man moves up, and the 1st woman casts up into her original position as the 2nd woman moves down. The set is now in its original position.
- B1 Hey for three, 1st couple with the 2nd couple and the NEXT 2nd couple. The 1st couples dance a Morris hey while the 2nd couples dance a Grimstock hey. (Interlocking heys. See note regarding the end couples). The set is still in its original position.
- B2 1st couple cast off as the 2nd couple move up then, partners facing, four changes circular hey to progressed places.
- NOTE. A neutral couple at the top wait two bars then lead down through the approaching 2nd couple and cast back to the neutral position ready for the next round of the dance. At the bottom a neutral couple wait two bars and then cast up round the approaching 1st couple and lead back to the neutral position ready for the next round of the dance.

Source. "The Compleat Country Dancing Master". (Walsh 1719) No. 314.

5 OPEN ALL HOURS



Set dance for five couples longways.

Play AB Five times.

- A1 1-8 All up and back a double, step set right and left and turn single. 9-16 All down a double and back, step set right and left and turn single.
- B1 1-8 3rd couple turn with the right hand three quarters round so that 3rd woman faces the 2nd couple and the 3rd man faces the 4th couple. 3rd woman and 2nd couple left hand star once and a half round while the 3rd man and 4th couple do the same. Meanwhile the 1st and 5th couples turn first with the right hand and then with the left hand.

Continued.

6 OPEN ALL HOURS

- 9-16 3rd woman and 1st couple right hand star once and a half round while the 3rd man and 5th couple do the same. Meanwhile the 2nd and 4th couples, neighbours facing, dance four changes of a circular hey, then all dance into a ring of ten. (The 3rd man is now at the bottom and the 3rd woman at the top). 17-24 Circle left half way round till all are proper and progressed then all overhead allemande with new partner.
- A2 1-8 Sharp siding left shoulder and back, step set right and left and turn single. 9-16 Sharp siding right shoulder and back, step set right and left and turn single.
- B2 1-24 As B1 from new positions.
- A3 1-8 All a double to the men's wall and back, step set as before and turn single.
 9-16 All a double to the woman's wall, and back, step set as before and turn single.
- B3 1-24 As B1 from new positions.
- A4 1-8 All back to back right shoulder, step set and turn single. 9-16 All back to back left shoulder, step set and turn single.
- B4 1-24 As B1 from new positions.
- A5 1-8 All arm right, step set and turn single. 9-16 All arm left, step set and turn single.
- B5 1-24 As B1 from new positions.

Set positions throughout the dance.

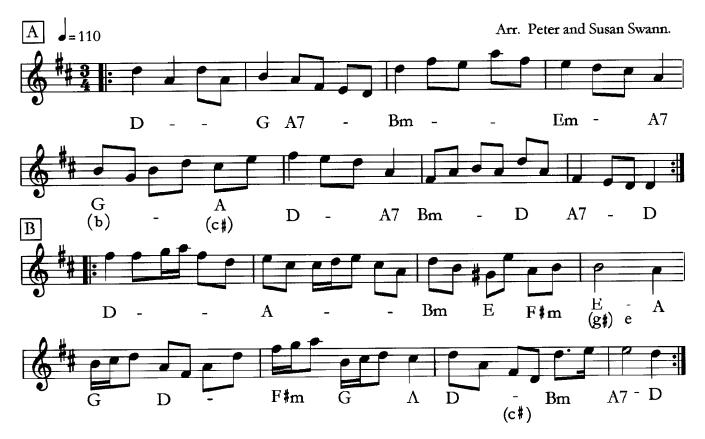
All start with chosen partner.

After once through the woman's side is 54213 and the men's side is 35421. After twice through the woman's side is 31452 and the men's side is 41253. After the third time through the woman's side is 25134 and the men's side is 23514. After the fourth time through the woman's side is 43521 and the men's side is 54132. At the end of the dance all should have their chosen partner back!

Note that the second time through everyone has a new partner. For the third sequence the original 1st and 5th couples are partners. The original 2nd and 4th couples are partners for the fourth time through. The original 3rd couple have the privilege of a new partner each time through.

Source. Tune. "Alice Where Art Thou". Joseph Ascher 1829 – 1869. Dance. Ken Sheffield.

7 VALIANT JOCKEY



Longways for as many as will. Duple minor set. Play AABB Ad Lib.

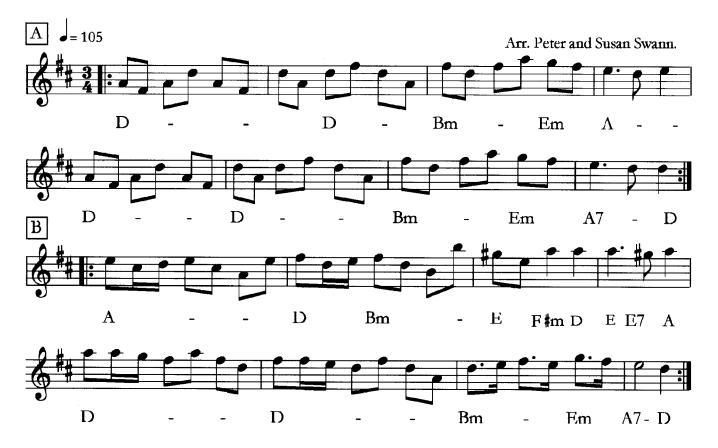
- A1 1st couple cast off, then the 1st and 2nd couple dance a double figure eight. (1st couple cross up to start). Then 1st couple lead up to their original places as the 2nd couple move down to their original places.
- A2 2nd couple cast up (1st couple move down), then 1st and 2nd couple dance a double figure eight. (2nd couple cross down to start as the 1st couple cast up). Then the 2nd couple lead down to their original place as the 1st couple cast up.

The set is now back where it started.

- B1 Men lead through the women and cast back to places, then the 1st couple lead through the 2nd couple and cast back to places.
- Women lead through the men and cast back to places then all step set and 1st couple cast as the 2nd couple lead up.

Source. "The Compleat Country Dancing Master" (Walsh 1718) No. 186.

8 DRAPERS GARDENS



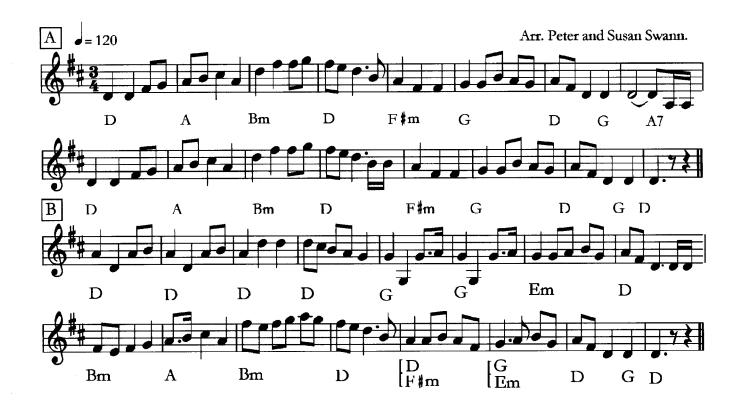
Longways for as many as will. Duple minor set.

Play AABB Ad Lib.

- A1 1-8 1st corners step set and turn single then go back to back right shoulders and half right hand turn into each others places.
- A2 1-8 Second corners do the same. (The set is now progressed and improper).
- B1 1 Women give two hands and change places.
 - 2 Men give two hands and change places.
 - 3-4 Hands four half way round.
 - 5-8 Neighbours facing three changes circular hey.
- B2 1-8 1st couple lead through NEXT 2nd couple, cast up, lead through own 2nd couple and cast off, then all turn partner with <u>left hand</u> half way round to progressed places.

Source. "The Compleat Country Dancing Master" (Walsh 1718) No. 201.

HEWLETT



Set dance for five couples longways.

Play AB Five times.

- 1-4 All lead up a double and back. A
 - 5-8 All step set right and left and turn single.
 - 9-12 1st and 2nd couples and 4th and 5th couples half pousette (1st and 4th men push).
 - 13-16 1st and 2nd couples and 4th and 5th couples, partners facing, four changes circular hey while the 3rd couple turn with the right hand once round, then the 3rd man turn his partner under arm.

The set is now 21354 all proper.

- 1-2 1st man change places with the 3rd man giving right hands while the 1st В woman change places with the 3rd woman giving left hands.

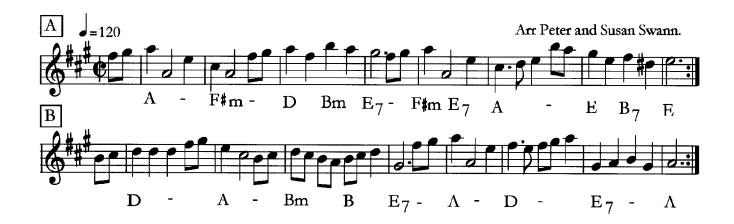
 3-4 1st man change places with the 5th man giving left hands while the 1st
 - woman change places with the 5th woman giving right hands.
 - 5-8 All step set right and left and turn single into a ring of ten.
 - 9-16 Circle left once round to progressed places.

The set is now 23514 all proper. Repeat four times to return the set to its original position.

Tune. "Turlough O'Carolan". 1670 – 1738. Source. Dance. Ken Sheffield.

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10 MAN TIGER

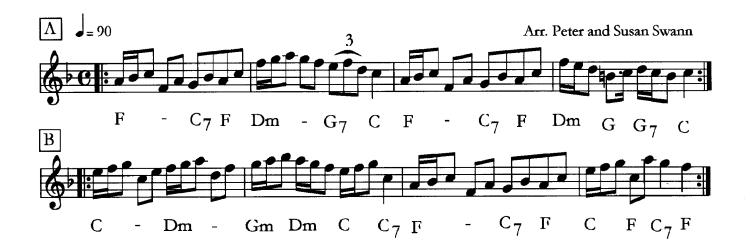


Longways for as many as will. Duple minor set. Play AABB Ad Lib.

- A1 1st man set right and left to 2nd woman, turn single, and turn her with the right hand once round.
- A2 2nd man set right and left to 1st woman, turn single, and turn her with the left hand once round.
- B1 1st couple cross into a double figure eight with the 2nd couple who cast up to start.
- B2 1st couple lead down (as the 2nd couple move up) and gates down with the NEXT 2nd couple, then all turn partners two hands once round.

Source. "The Compleat Country Dancing Master" (Walsh 1718) No. 339.

11 QUARTER DAY



Set dance for three couples.

Play AABB Three times.

- A1 1-4 1st couple set right and left and cast as the 2nd couple move up. 5-8 1st couple cross over and the 3rd couple turn to face out (man to his left, woman to her right) and hand them round into the third place improper.
- A2 1-8 Repeat with the 2nd couple leading. The set is now 3-1-2 with the 1st and 2nd couples improper.
- B1 1-8 3rd couple lead down the middle and gates down with the 2nd couple, then half figure eight through the 1st couple at the top and lead up to the top as the 1st couple cast into middle place.
- B2 1-8 Cross Morris hey starting with the 1st couple crossing down through the bottom couple as the ends cast. As each couple pass through the middle place going down they cross onto their proper side. They do not cross as they dance up.

 The set is now 3-1-2 all proper.

Source. "Johnson's Choice Collection". Vol. 5. No.71.



Hall Barn 1975







Hall Barn 2005