

T H E L W A L L
(Cheshire)

Characteristics of the tradition

The Dances number about 6, one long-stick, two short-stick, and 3 hanky dances.

The Style The dancing style follows the whim of the foreman at the time the dance was introduced. The style is loosely based on other traditions.

The Figures. The figures vary according to dance but still follow the originating tradition's format - the exception being Android's Folly.

The Steps. Like the figures, the stepping also follows the originating tradition - with the exception of Android's Folly.

WELT HALL CHIMES Two long-sticks (c.1985)

Danced in the style of Lichfield Ring O'Bells to the tune "Welt Hall Chimes"

BRAIN TESTING Short-stick (c.1986)

Danced in the style of Headington Bean Setting to that tune. The figures are basically those in Bean Setting but the distinctive figure varies each time danced. (See Headington - Bean Setting for description of figures)

Sequence - OY;FU;DF1;CO;DF2;BB;DF3;WH;DFO

DF1 (singles) - Identical to the DF of Bean Setting, Headington. On the strike round No.1 starts by striking stick of No.3. (1-3-5-6-4-2)

DF2 (doubles) - Begins as DF1 but strike round is started by Nos.1 and 6 who strike the sticks of 3 and 4 respec. (1-3-5-6-4-2 and 6-4-2-1-3-5 simultaneously)

DF3 (trebles) - Begins as DF1 but strike round is started by Nos.1, 4 and 5 who strike the sticks of 3, 2, and 6 respec. (1-3-5-6-4-2, 4,2,1,3,5,6, and 5-6-4-2-1-3 simultaneously) - This is a continuous clash-receive-clash... (or Rec.-Clash..)

DFO (overheads) - As DF2 (doubles) except that those not involved in clashing low (Nos.2 and 5 initially) clash high. Clashing forms anti-clockwise motion (High, receive left, pass right)

(TheWall)

ANDROID'S FOLLY Short-stick (c.1996)

Music - "Not for Joe" or "Jenny Lind"

Sequence - ShO;DF;DC;DF;DG;DF;WH;DF;BR;DF;COTR&O

The Steps Stepping is two single steps followed by one double step. At the end of the figure the last double step is replaced by 3 stamps. DF is done as a set.

Hand Movements The stick is held in any comfortable position.

The Figures are shamble on, cast, double gypsy, whole hey, Bruce's Reel, and cross over to rounds and off (also known as "Fancy doings").

ShO (shamble on) - Form up set and discuss how to do the dance

DC (danced cast) - Both sides face up and follow top couple who move forward slightly then turn out, cast to bottom of the set then return to place.

DG (double gypsy) - Pass right shoulder with partner to double set width, continue to other side of (double width) set passing right shoulder with partner of right hand neighbour - No.1 passes right shoulder with 2 and 4, 3 with 4 and 6, 5 with 6 and space. Return to place the same route but passing left shoulder.

WH (whole hey) - Nos 1 and 5 turn left, 2 and 6 turn right, do semi-circle to make long, wide set (bars 1-2). 1, 2, 5 and 6 then cross diagonally each dancer passing just behind the person on their left (bars 3-4). Turn at the ends (still wide), but dropping in a little bit (bars 5-6), then cross diagonally again into place.

- Middle couples cross right shoulder and perform figure 8 being wide on their own side for the end crossing. Second half is the same coming into place at the end

BR (Bruce's Reel) - No.1 leads odds up, turns right and goes down middle of set, while No.6 leads evens down, turns right and goes up middle of set to meet odds. No.1 passes left shoulder with 6, right shoulder with 4, then "rolls" into line. No.3 passes right shoulder with 6, left with 4, right with 2 then turns into line, 5 does similar to No.1. Evens having passed No.5 turn into line (as odds) arriving in a line as a wide set to stamp into position.

COTR&O (cross over to rounds and off) - Pass right shoulder with partner into double width on two single steps, then re-adjust position into even rounds on double step (1 and 6 have to drop back, 2 and 5 have to move forward). From this position dance round, and at some point will be led off.

DF - Clash left open-handed twice, then right back-handed. Repeat this 2 more time (total 3) then finish with 3 clashes with partner (open-, back-, open-handed). Repeat this whole sequence

Handkerchief Dances (4-man)

The 4-man Hanky Dances are an adaptation of their Ducklington equivalents. All are square set dances (numbering from 1 anti-clockwise), the stepping of the original Ducklington Dance, as performed by Thelwall, has been retained wherever possible.

The feature of these "Thelwall" dances are the three choruses. Each dance includes a stepped first chorus, a head couple cross followed by a side couple cross and a "melee" (all 4 dancers cross simultaneously).

Sequence - OY;FU;SSS1;FU;SSS2;FU;SSS3

FU - Danced by all dancers

1st time - |4|4|HC|HC|; repeat

2nd time - as 1st but (triangular) ss instead of 4-step. Each dancer "effectively" following the dancer on his left very closely

3rd time - as 1st but UC instead of 4-step. Move to middle, HC to place

NUTTING GIRL (c.1994)

Sequence - as above

SSS1 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|HC|HC|; repeat

SSS2 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|HC|HC|; repeat

During 4-steps: 1st time tops cross and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

2nd time sides cross and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

SSS3 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|HC|HC|; repeat finish on 4 PC

During 4-steps: 1st time ALL cross and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

2nd time 4 PC to finish turning rt and out

(Thelwall)

WELT HALL CHIMES

Steve Burgess

$(AB)^2A^2B^2$

Handwritten musical score for 'Welt Hall Chimes' in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves, A and B. Staff A begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Staff B begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Both staves contain a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line.

BRAIN TESTING

$1/2A(AB)^4$

Handwritten musical score for 'Brain Testing' in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves, A and B. Staff A begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Staff B begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Both staves contain a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line.

ANDROID'S FOLLY ("Not for Joe") AJW

$(AB)^5A$

Handwritten musical score for 'Android's Folly' in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves, A and B. Staff A begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Staff B begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Both staves contain a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line.

(Thelwall)

ANDROID'S FOLLY ("Jenny Lind")

(AB)⁵A

Handwritten musical score for "Android's Folly" in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'A' and the second 'B'. Both staves contain a continuous sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line.

NUTTING GIRL

A(AB)²CB

Handwritten musical score for "Nutting Girl" in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff is labeled 'A', the second 'B', the third 'C', and the fourth 'C'. The music features a mix of eighth, sixteenth, and dotted rhythms, with some triplets. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

(TheIwall)

JOCKEY TO THE FAIR (c.1995)

Sequence - as above

SSS1 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|HC|HC|hcb|hcb|HC|HC|hcb|hcb|HC|HC|

SSS2 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|HC|HC|hcb|hcb|HC|HC|hcb|hcb|HC|HC|

During hcb: 1st time tops cross 2-step and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

2nd time sides cross 2-step and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

SSS3 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|HC|HC|2|2|HC|HC|hcb|hcb|PC PC|PC PC|

During |2|: 1st time ALL cross and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

PRINCESS ROYAL (1998)

Sequence - as above

SSS1 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|hb|hb|4|4|hb|hb|

After side steps, a reel of 4. Pass right shoulder (even backwards)

Nos.1 and 2, and Nos.3 and 4 start.

First 4-step to change, second 4-step easy turn out to do hop-backs as
continue reel to opposite position. Complete reel similarly to place.

SSS2 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|hb|hb|4|4|HC|HC| (top couple)

|ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|HC|HC|4|4|hb|hb| (side couple)

During 4-steps: 1st time tops back to back hb to place

2nd time sides back to back hb to place

SSS3 - |ss(lt)|ss(lt)|ss(rt)|ss(rt)|4|4|HC|HC|4|4|PC PC|PC PC|

During 4-steps: 1st time ALL cross and turn with 2 HC (turn rt)

2nd time ALL cross to place and finish on 4 PC

(Thelwall)

JOCKEY TO THE FAIR

A(AB)²CB

See the real black book for this

PRINCESS ROYAL

A(AB)²CB

Handwritten musical score for 'PRINCESS ROYAL' in three staves. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff is labeled 'A' and contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff is labeled 'B' and contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The third staff is labeled 'C' and contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some triplets. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

(Thelwall)

PICKERING DANCE Two short sticks(1998)

Thelwall Morris Men's 25th Anniversary dance encompassing the traditions and history of the side.

Music - "Welt Hall Chimes"

Sequence - OY;SR;DF;BR;DF;MR;DF;RH;DF

The Steps The stepping is as for Android's Folly - Two single steps followed by a double step. At the end of the figure the double step is replaced by three stamps to adjust into a "ring" for the DF.

Hand Movements The sticks are held in a comfortable position.

The Figures are once to yourself, split ring, Bidford ring, Moulton ring, ring hey. The dance may be done in this order, or varied i.e. Pick-a-ring!

SR (split ring) - A "Lichfield-type" danced cast.

BR (Bidford ring) - A "Bidford-type" whole rounds. Each dancer performs small circle to the right to form a ring for the whole rounds.

MR (Moulton ring) - "Moulton-type" small rings. Top four clockwise in first half of figure, followed by bottom four anti-clockwise.

RH (ring hey) - A circular a-la-Bidford. Bottoms turn up, middles turn down, tops cross. Everyone right shoulder first.

DF - Having formed a ring on the three stamps, the sticks are held out to the sides. No.1 strikes Nos.2 and 3 downwards then upwards. Nos.2 and 3 then strike Nos.4 and 5 respectively downwards then upwards. Nos.4 and 5 then strike No.6 downwards then upwards. (12 clashes).

No.6 then strikes Nos.5 and 4 downwards then upwards. Nos.5 and 4 then strike Nos.3 and 2 respectively downwards then upwards. Nos.3 and 2 then strike No.1 downwards then upwards. (12 clashes).

All then do last clash (25th) together waist height (pause for last beat!) before going into half hey. Repeat

On the last half hey, clash high in a set, facing up.