

TREACLE EATER

Source : Choreographed for a workshop at the 38th Sidmouth Festival on Wednesday 5th August, the Experienced North West Morris Workshop called “Dances for less than Eight”. Most dances for six are cut down versions of dances for eight, and look like it. The following sequence is a compendium of figures that work for six. As most derive from dances performed by Treacle Eater, the NW women’s side at Yeovil, and filmed on Queen’s Delight’s Day of Dance in 1989, the sequence has their name, and the figures titles mine, theirs follow. The name derived from the local folly, “Jack the Treacle Eater” in Yeovil’s Barwick Park. Jack was said to have been a messenger who ran between Yeovil and London, sustaining himself on treacle!

FIGURES

1. CASTS - from “Scarlet & Gold”

All face up. The top pair polka backwards down the outside of the set, for 6 polkas, till below the bottom pair. The inactives who have been stationary, now polka forward for 2 bars, moving up one place and the top pair move into the bottom place. Repeat twice till all back to place.

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1 2   3 4   5 6   1 2
3 4 to 5 6 to 1 2 to 3 4
5 6   1 2   3 4   5 6

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2. THREE CROSS, - MELEE from ”Desperate Dan”

Nos 1, 4 & 5 move round the set one place in 4 polkas. They go into the centre right shoulders, very close, but not a star, and then out to the next empty place. The other dancers turn once round on the spot, the rule being to turn in the same direction as the dancers that is passing them by.

Nos 2,3 & 6 do the same, or can go the other way round, anticlockwise and left shoulders into the centre.

Repeat 2 more times till back to starting places. 24 bars in all.

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1 2   5 2   5 3   4 3   4 6   1 6   1 2
3 4 to 3 1 to 6 1 to 6 5 to 2 5 to 2 4 to 3 4
5 6   4 6   4 2   1 2   1 3   5 3   5 6

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3. STAR ON THE SIDES - from “Scarlet & Gold”

All start facing up, and the top pair cast to their right and go down the set (2 polkas) to dance a right hand star with the other two dancers in their files (6 polkas). Turn inwards and left hand star back to place.

4. REEL OF SIX, - WAVY LINES from “Desperate Dan”

All dance forward (4 polkas) into a line, facing alternate directions, along the centre line of the set. Arms slope down at 45° so that cross sticks. Reel of 6 done by each pair turning as a pair half way round back

into the line, not done as a reel just giving hands, two polkas per change. When back to start, retire to place on 4 polkas, 32 polkas in all.

5. LINES, - ALL CHANGE from “Down the Treacle Mines”

The pattern is that the pair at the top polka sideways (2 polkas) to stand momentarily outside the middles and the pair at the bottom polka sideways to stand between the middles (2 polkas), forming a line of 6 across the set. Then the outer pair move to the bottom, the middle pair move to the top and the inner pair move only outwards to form the lines along the set (2 polkas)

This move rotates the pairs one place. Repeated 2 more times dancers are in their original places after 12 bars. It is best to go through the figure again to fill 24 bars in all.

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1 2           3 4
3 4 to 1 3 5 6 4 2 to 5 6 etc
5 6           1 2

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6. CROWNS from “Scarlet & Gold”

Nos 1, 4 & 5 dance forward and form a ring/crown of three and polka all the way round clockwise to place. The other three repeat (in reverse direction if this option is chosen for fig.2)

7. CROSS & CIRCLE, - OUTSIDE SQUARE from “Desperate Dan”

The outer corners, Nos 1, 2, 5 & 6 polka around the outside in a circle, taking 4 polkas per corner moved. The middle pair, Nos 3 & 4, dance to meet, 2 polkas, turn 90° to their left and retire, 2 polkas, to end in the centre of the ends. Continue this pattern 3 more times, going around the set one side each turn, to return to starting place.

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1 2 5 4 1 6 5 2 3 6 1 2
3 4 to to 4 3 to to 3 4
5 6 6 3 2 2 1 1 4 5 5 6

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8. TWO THIRD STARS, - STAR TREK from “Down the Treacle Mines”

The middles go to their right and right hand star three hands two thirds around so that they have moved around two places. The new middles go to their left and left hand star two places round. Repeat both till back to starting place.

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1 2 2 4 6 2 2 3 1 2
3 4 to 6 1 to 4 3 to 1 6 to 3 4
5 6 3 5 5 1 4 5 5 6

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9. “U”-SHAPED-HEY - from “Down the Treacle Mines”

The dancers 5, 3, 1, 2, 4, 6 in that initial order are to be considered to dance a reel of 6 which has been bent around the top of the set. Thus it starts with 1 & 2, 4 & 6, 5 & 3, facing and passing by the right shoulder, and then weaving, passing alternate shoulders, not like fig 4, and turning back when reaching the bottom

ends of the files, ie dancers NOT crossing at the bottom of the set. All the dancers do a complete hey passing through every position. The movement need only take 12 bars and any surplus is danced on the spot facing up.

10. COMBS - RAKES from "Desperate Dan"

All face up and the bottom pair open out and come up outside the middle pair, the tops move together and fall back to be between the middle pair, to form a line of 6 across the set (4 polkas).

The line of six is divided into two halves, which proceed to comb through each other. The right hand side move forward and the left hand side backwards enough to move half a place sideways towards each other, they then reverse directions and pass through each other having moved along just one place. Then continue to move forward and back to work through each other. Each move is two polkas forward or two polkas backward.

	2 4 6		5 3 1
5 3 1 2 4 6 to		to	5 3 2 1 4 6 to
	5 3 1		2 4 6

	2 4 6		5 3 1
to 5 2 3 4 1 6 to		to	2 5 4 3 6 1 to
	5 3 1		2 4 6

	2 4 6		
to 2 4 5 6 3 1 to		to	2 4 6 5 3 1.
	5 3 1		

The two halves turn inwards to face along the line of six. They pass through each other (motor bikes) going down the set and swinging up to come up into their original columns to finish the dance.

DESPERATE DAN

Source : composed by Deb Norman of Treacle Eater.
Set : 6 dancers, each with two sticks, held horizontally at ear level.
Step : Crossover rant (ie polka)

CHORUS

2 Polkas facing out, 2 polkas facing bottom (down), 2 polkas facing in (across), 2 polkas facing top (up) - arms held horizontally, sticks vertical.

FIGURES**1. MELEE**

4 polkas : Nos 2, 3 & 6 do a small circle (loop) from place around to the left. At the same time Nos 1, 4 & 5 dance one polka into a huddle in the middle, one polka round the circle, one polka forwards out to place of next one (of the 3) round, and one polka to turn round to the left.
 Repeat with 1, 4 & 5 doing the small circles and 2, 3 & 6 doing the huddle.
 Repeat this whole movement twice more to regain starting positions.

2. YAMAHA

Single cast out from top to the bottom, and all follow. At the bottom cross over, alternately, to the other side of the set, the evens side in front.
 Repeat back to place.

3. WAVY LINES

2 polkas into a single line along the centre, right shoulders with partners, and arms down.
 2 polkas to make half a right hand turn, then 2 polkas to make half a left hand turn with the next.
 Those at the end do a whole turn on the spot with left arms up.
 Repeat till have turned with partner again then all forward out to place.

4. RAKE

4 polkas for the tops to move to be outside the middles and the bottoms to move inside the middles forming line of 6 across the set, all facing up.
 Moving as two lines of three, evens and odds, evens side move forward first. Move one gap between dancers along each time you meet untill the position of the lines is reversed. The steps are 1 polka forward evens, backward odds, 1 polka backward evens, forward odds into line, 1 polka forward odds, backwards evens, 1 polka backwards odds, forward evens into single line.
 Both lines turn to face then start crossing right shoulders alternately, moving to the bottom of the set and then up to the top.

5. OUTSIDE SQUARE

3 polkas for Nos 3 & 4 to move into the middle of the set (turn 90°) and back out one place round the square to be in the middle of top/bottom lines. The rest move one corner place round, remaining square. 1 polka on the spot in a set that has reformed at a right angle.
 Repeat till back to place. Has been tried with the centres going either anticlock or clockwise with little visible difference.

DOWN THE TREACLE MINES

Source : composed by Val Macklin of Treacle Eater.

Set : 6 dancers with garlands.

Stepping : 2 polkas and 4 skips sequence.

STEP UP

2 polkas on the spot facing across the set. 4 skips to cross passing right shoulders with partner and end facing up and down the set. 2 polkas on the spot in that position. 4 skips back to place continuing in the initial sense.

FIGURES

1. STAR TREK - first called Star Turn.

2 polkas on the spot facing across, 4 skips making two three person right hand stars, the middles going to their right. Aim to go round only 2 places in the star, and remember where the middle comes from. 2 polkas on the spot facing across, 4 skips making two left hand stars, middles going to the left. Repeat to get to places.

2. CAST

The 2 polkas, 4 skips stepping, all the way round, moving all the time. Nos 3 & 4 lead the cast through the tops round and to the bottom. All follow, the tops joining at the end. When the tops get to the bottom they dance up the middle of the set to place.

3. SWING

2 polkas on the spot facing across. 4 skips into a line up the set, right shoulders with partner. 2 polkas on the spot, link hands with partner. 4 skips a half right hand turn. 2 polkas on the spot, 4 skips a half right hand turn. 2 polkas on the spot, 4 skips backwards to place.

4. U SHAPED HEY

The 2 polkas, 4 skips stepping, all the way round, moving all the time. Aim to pass one person on 2 polkas and two persons on the 4 skips. Face 1&3, 2&4, 5&6 and start passing by right shoulders. Dance round the U shape to the top of the set and back to other end of the U and then back to place. The turn back at the end of the U set counts as passing one person.

5. ALL CHANGE

2 polkas on the spot facing across. 4 skips tops dance to outside middles and bottoms dance to inside middles. 2 polkas on spot facing across in this line of 6. 4 skips, outsides (original tops) dance to bottom of set, middles (original middles) dance to top of set, insides (original bottoms) dance slightly backwards to join set. Repeat back to place.

6. DANCE OFF

2 polkas on the spot facing up. 3 skips into line right shoulders with partner, 1 skip to face up. 2 polkas on the spot facing up. 3 skips across the partner's place and 1 skip to face up. 2 polkas on the spot facing up, 3 skips into line right shoulders with partner, 1 skip to face up. Follow No 2 off the set (2 polkas and 4 skips sequence till off)

JACK'S RANT

Source : composed by Val Macklin of Treacle Eater.

Set : 6 dancers with two sticks.

Stepping : 4 polkas and 4 walk steps sequence.

UP STREETS

Comes at the start and between all the figures and at the end.

Arms on shoulders with the sticks held horizontal. Starting left foot, 4 polkas on spot, 4 walk steps forward moving sticks below waist height definitely from one side to the other. 4 polkas on the spot with arms up, 4 walk steps backwards with hands as the other walk, 4 polkas on the spot.

1. STAR

Snap into star arms (both) horizontal, sticks vertical, round for 7 steps, drop arms and turn out and back on the 8th. Snap arms up to horizontal position, round for 6, then arms back to shoulders and move back to place.

2. HEY

Fronts (tops, facing up) turn to their left to start the sequence passing left shoulders on the side, 3 steps to get there and 1 to turn to face partner. Cross the set passing right shoulders. Repeat back to place. Arms straight down by the sides all the way through.

3. CAST

Front (top) pair cast out and back 4 steps to get to the back of the set. The back pair dance forward 4 steps. Next 4 steps the back pair dance backwards back to place and the front pair come up between them close together. Next 4 steps the fronts dance backwards to the backs position and the backs cast out and down to the fronts position and end facing down the set. Next 4 steps the back pair dance down the set close together back to place and the fronts dance forwards back to place.

4. WINDMILL

Snap into windmill formation, 1 & 4 into the centre, both arms diagonally out from sides, 2 & 3 join in to face the same direction as the person that has joined them. (comment here unreadable). Dance half way round, last 2 steps hands up to shoulders and return to place. Snap into windmill formation again, this time 2 & 3 go into the middle while 1 & 4 go on the ends, half way round and last 2 steps, hands back to shoulders and dance back to place.
(what do 5 & 6 do?)

5. CROSS ROUNDS

2 steps to move into the centre, 2 steps to face round and move round the circle, 1 step to turn to face into the centre and 3 steps to back out to diagonal opposite's place. Repeat back to places.

THE TOWN OF THE SAME NAME

Source : composed by Deb Norman of Treacle Eater.
Set : 8 dancers with two sticks.
Steps : single step, left foot start. Every dance element takes 4 steps.
ORDER : Step Up, Cross Over, Ins & Outs, Step Up, Weave in Pairs, Line of Eight, Step Up, Circle, Cast.

STEP UP

Back of each 4 move between fronts, left arm up, fronts move out sideways.
 On the spot, right arm up.
 First pairs move behind seconds, left arm up.
 On the spot, right arm up.
 First pairs move forward between seconds, left arm up.
 On the spot, right arm up.
 Seconds move behind firsts, left arm up.
 On the spot, right arm up.

CROSS OVER

Into line, right shoulders with partner, left arm up.
 On the spot, right arm up.
 Forward to opposite place, left arm up.
 On the spot, turning to face across the set, right arm up.
 Into line, right shoulders with partner, left arm up.
 On the spot, right arm up.
 Forward to place, left arm up.
 On the spot, turning (the easy way) to face top, right arm up.

INS & OUTS - in two parts - they do not break at the music.

As a set of 8 :

First pair move inside second pair, rest forward slightly, left arm up.
 First pair move outside third pair, rest forward slightly, right arm up.
 First pair move inside fourth pair, second pair move inside third pair, left arm up.
 First pair move out bottom of set and face top, second pair move outside fourth pair, rest forward slightly, right arm up.
 Second pair move inside first pair, third pair move inside fourth pair, rest forward slightly, left arm up.
 Second pair move out bottom of set and face top, third pair move outside of first pair, rest forward slightly, right arm up.
 Third pair move inside second pair, fourth pair move inside first pair, rest forward slightly, left arm up.
 Third pair move out bottom of set and face top, fourth pair move outside second pair, rest forward slightly, right arm up.
 Fourth pair move inside third pair, rest forward slightly, left arm up.
 Fourth pair move out bottom of set and face top, rest slightly forward, right arm up.

As two sets of 4's :

The 4 front move between the 4 backs, left arm up.
 Slide diagonally behind the next person, swapping insides and outsides, right arm up.
 Turn single, outside out and insides in, to face opposite direction, left arm up.
 Move forward into two lines of 4 again, right arm up.

Fronts forward and backs back to set, left arm up.
Back turn out and forward, right arm up.

WEAVE IN PAIRS

Back 2 of each 4 move forward outside front 2, evens turn right to face down, left arm up.

Rotate quarter turn to end in straight line, right arm up.

Middles rotate left, left arm up

Repeat four times.

All rotate right, right arm up.

Middles rotate left, left arm up.

All rotate quarter turn, right arm up.

Evens turn to face top, left hand up.

Outsides to reverse behind inside to reform set, right arm up.

LINE OF EIGHT

Fourth pair move up between third pair, rest move out and back, left arm up.

On the spot, right arm up.

Third and fourth pairs up between second pair, rest move out and back, (line of 6) left arm up.

On the spot, right arm up.

Second, third and fourth pairs move up between first pair, left arm up.

On the spot, all now in one line of 8, right arm up.

Outside go forward insides reverse to rotate line 90°, left arm up.

On the spot, turning to face top, right arm up.

CIRCLES

Face on ends and sides, move towards and meet that person right shoulders, left arm up.

Half right hand turn, right arm up.

Move one place round your own circle, left arm up.

Move one place round your own circle, right arm up.

Half right hand turn, left arm up.

Move one place round your own circle, right arm up.

Move one place round your own circle, left arm up.

Back to place, right arm up.

CAST

First pair to cast out, left arm up.

Second pair to cast out, right arm up.

Third pair to cast out, left arm up.

Fourth pair to cast out, all move in direction to narrow set, left arm up.

1 & 2 turn and move outside 3 & 4, facing top, left arm up.

1 & 2 move out sideways, 3 & 4 turn outside 5 & 6 to face top inside 1 & 2, left arm up.

1, 2, 3 & 4 move out sideways, 5 & 6 turn outside 7 & 8 to face top inside 3 & 4, left arm up.

7 & 8 turn and face top to join line, stop with right arm up.