

STAVE DANCES : SIDMOUTH WORKSHOP 1996

LAST OF THE LANCERS

Source : Mss list of dances used during a club walk. The following is a common version of the "Kitchen Lancers".

Music : Jigs.

Steps : Dorset skip-change for most, kick balance, sideways slip-step and walk where noted.

Set : eight dancers arranged in a quadrille in pairs.

Grand Chain : Pairs face with staves on shoulders, start passing right shoulders, 2 bars each pass, and 2 kick balances when met partner at half way and at end.

Turn & Cast : Each pair, in turn with each repetition, turns round in place for 4 bars, left hand turn or push 'em round with the staves, whilst the other pairs form a column of three arches with their staves. The pair who turned, cast separately and dance a big curve down the outside to meet at the bottom.

UP & Walk : Arches stand still facing across while lead pair walks up under the arches for 8 steps, then all face up, ie. direction of lead couple's place, with staves on shoulders, and all walk up four steps and retire four steps.

Sidesteps : All slip step sideways to pass partner, with vigour, going well across the set, return similarly to place. Repeat.

Cast & Up : Lines separate and cast down own side to bottom, with skip-change step, come up the centre, lines reasonably apart.

Forward & Swing : Lines face, dance forward and back, turn partner to starting place.

Repeat four times in all in maximum, so that each pair has led, then end on a final Grand Chain.

It works as a dance with garlands as well.

OAKFIELD CIRCLE DANCE

Source : Taught by Dorset Knobs & Knockers at a Morris Federation Workshop

Steps : Dorset skip-change for most.

Set : eight dancers arranged in a circle, and in pairs, facing in.

Chorus : All circle clockwise for 2 bars, one bar going into middle, and one bar facing back in a tight circle. 2 bars circle anti-clockwise, face centre and 2 bars Dorset backstep out to starting circle.

Used at start, between figures, and at the end.

Figure One

A **Double Circle**: right hand of each pair (ladies) goes into the centre, all face anticlockwise, and all dance in pairs once around the set to place, ladies turn clockwise to face round, left shoulder to the centre, and their partner moves up to be alongside.

B **Diagonal Reels** : right hand of each pair (ladies) move into centre first again and all dance reel of fours along the diagonals, ending in place.

Figure Two

A **Squares** : set took 2 bars to face thus,

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> _ >                > _ _
_ _ find this leads to messy patterns, prefer, > <
> _ >                _ _ <
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They dance around a small square in 4 bars, starting in the direction they are facing, all going round clockwise, passing left shoulders in the centre. End with two bars to face direction as at the start.

B **Double Star** : rather like Double Circle, but going clockwise, middles put staves vertically in the centre, knuckles touching, and other arm on shoulder of partner. Go once around set.

Figure Three

A **Four Stars** : left hand of each pair (men) backsteps out and face round anticlockwise, slopes staves over the centre but not touching and dance once around the set. The others form a star in the centre, underneath and go round clockwise.

B **Circular Hey** : pairs face and start grand chain by passing right shoulders first, end all facing into the centre with staves crossed with partner.

Exit : One pair makes arch and rest lead off under in pairs, followed by the arch.

DORSET CLIPPER

Source : Taught by Royal Manor Morris at a Morris Federation Workshop.

Music : "Balquidder Lassie"

Set : six dancers in two rows facing.

Chorus :

"Arches" : The bottom two pairs make arches and the top pair dances four double steps underneath to the bottom of the set. Then the active pair dance four double steps up the outside to place, while the middle pair goes under the bottom arch and casts back to place. Repeat in reverse.

1 **"Lines"** : Two lines of three facing, sidestep diagonally forward to the left to form in 2 bars a line of 6, step on the spot for 2 bars, then sidestep diagonally for 2 bars to the right to be in the opposites' places, but facing out and back to back. Retire directly back to place in 2 bars. Repeat in reverse.

2 **"Circles"** : Nos 1 & 3 cross staves between them, and move once round the set clockwise, with their arch going over the heads of the other line, who themselves are going all around the set anti-clockwise so that they pass under twice. The odd dancer, No. 5, does not form an arch, but still dances, moving backwards, keeping a straight line of three with the arch, moving a little to their left at the start to be closer, and so allowing the other line to pass them on the outside. Repeat in reverse with Nos 2 & 4 making the arch.

3 **"Squares"** : Top pair cast to be outside the middles in 2 bars and end facing down, bottom pair move up between the middles and face up, middles turn on the spot to face up, now _ _ _ _ _ , in the next 2 bars all turn to face out, < < < > > >, then the ends of this line dance to the bottom, the centre of the line to the top, and these other two, the original middles turn back around the spot. Then all turn to face down. Repeat forming line of 6 from other end, but this time the dancers turn in, > > > < < <. The centres go to the top, the outsides to the bottom, and the others turn around the spot again. They in fact keep going round on the spot.

4 **"Hey"** : This is a Sheepskin Hey done by both lines in turn. A line starts by leading around the top of the other line, passing outside the top dancer and tracing a figure eight around the three dancers, and each time that the last of the three passes the middle of the line they cast back around that dancer to lead the line. When the leader is at the front again they move back to place between the top two and each goes direct to their own place.

5 **"In & Down"** All dance facing partner for 2 bars, turn to face down for one bar, turn to face out for one bar, then the two lines pivot on the top pair, to form a line of six across the set, with the top pair in the centre, facing up and staves crossed in twos.