

REPERTOIRE BUILDING

Lakeland

So, what can I tell you about this area of dancing that you don't already know? Surely it's all been published already hasn't it? Also, so many dancers perform Lakeland steps that it must all be very well known. Like all the best dogmatic statements these are only partly true. New dancers and dances are still being found - the rediscovery of Marion Cowper a few years ago is just one example. Again, most dancers perform a very limited number of steps from the large number already published. Many people tell me that the Flett's book (Traditional Step Dancing in Lakeland) is difficult to understand. Now although I don't personally agree, perhaps you should encourage those who run Lakeland workshops here and there to be a little more adventurous.

As regards standardisation, I give one example - the Shuffle Off. Now I'm sure that most of you can do a standard Lakeland Shuffle Off. If you care to look at pages 27/8 of the Flett's book, you will find not one but six different versions. There are many variants of other steps which might be rather interesting. Two long routines have already been published in Instep. It would clearly be possible to construct a large number of such routines featuring some of the more unfamiliar steps and variants.

To commence, here is a list of dancers with reasonably large repertoires, showing who learnt from whom. Most seem to be able to trace their steps back to one member or other of the Robinson family.

<u>Old Jos Robinson</u>	<u>Young Jos Robinson</u>	<u>Stainton Robinson</u>	<u>Tommy Cannon</u>
Young Jos Ethel Wall Fred Cowerd Tom Barnes Mrs Langhorn Chris Parkinson Lucy Short Dorothy Chaplow May Rigg	Norman R	Sarah Ridding Mrs Pickthall	Theodore Cannon Mrs Storey Diddy Dixon Fred Clifton Muriel Todd

It might be interesting to pick a dancer from each teacher and for a member of your team to "specialise" in those steps. By using the Flett's book it is possible to reconstruct individual repertoires. e.g.

Diddy Dixon

Shuffle Off I
Shuffle Off IV
Shuffle Off V
Single Shuffle I
Double Shuffle II
Treble Shuffle II
Double Treble Shuffle IV
Long Sidestep III
Short Sidestep
Shuffle and Stamp I
Crunch V & VI
Single Crunch (a)
Swivelling Crunch IV & (d)
Jump Crunch
Hagworm
Toe and Heel
Crow Walk
Rolling I
Half Cuts
Forward Step III
6 Exhibition Steps

Dorothy Chaplow

Shuffle Off II
Single Shuffle I
Double Shuffle I
Treble Shuffle I
Dble Treble Shuffle III
Shuffle and Stamp II
Crunch II
Single Crunch (a)
Double Crunch
Hagworm
Toe and Heel
Pick the Shuffle
Rolling I
Half Cuts

A good example of this type of approach is the use of Diddy Dixon's Exhibition Hornpipe. This consists of six excellent steps, which if kept together make a fine little dance.

Did you know that what are usually seen as clog steps were in fact danced rather more commonly in hard shoes. The steps take on a quite different character when performed in shoes.

Outside the "Robinson" area, Marion Cowper has become known in recent years, particularly for her clog waltz routine. She also has two hornpipe routines of considerable interest. A pupil of Robert Doran, another Lakeland dancer, has recently been discovered in Clitheroe and I hope to be able to report at some future date that her steps have been fully recorded.

Finally one must not forget the reels. The three and five hands in which the solo steps can be used and the six and eight hands utilising just a Shuffle Off have all been published.

On a more esoteric note, many dancing masters taught "fancy dances" to children. These may not be interesting to the mainstream clog dancer, but one or two are really rather good. The following are but a small selection:

Garland Dance. Not much use for clog dancers, rather more so to a ladies morris team perhaps. Simplistic.

Horse to Newmarket. A proper step dance in which one dresses up as a jockey and dances brandishing a whip.

Sailor's Hornpipe. Usual type of step dance.

Skirt Dance. Invented by Arthur Cowper. Graceful movements in an extremely full skirt.

Skipping Rope Dance. Steps performed over a skipping rope.

Sword Dance. Cowper family version of the crossed sword dance.

If anyone requires further information on any of the above, or advice on where to learn any particular step the editor would be pleased to answer any queries.

FESTIVALS 1985

A listing of festivals from May to September 1985, showing details of clog workshops, or lack of them.

MAY

3 - 5	Wath Folk Festival. J.M.Binns 0709-873431	Keebles Queen
3 - 5	Eastbourne International Folk Festival. P Mays 0323-642116	Jane Lloyd Justine Badrick
4 - 6	Gloucestershire Folk Festival P Derbyshire 0452-424387	No workshop
5 - 6	Bulford Folk Festival D Slater 09807-70326	Not known
10-12	Holmfirth Folk Festival E Keys	Newcastle
17-19	Felixstowe Folk Weekend P Woodgate 0473-70516	Madelaine Hollis
17-19	Moulton Village Festival B Care 0604-46818	No workshop
24-26	St Neots Folk Festival R James 0480 55301	No workshop
24-26	Chippenham Folk Festival Festival Office 0249-657190	Not known
24-27	Chester Folk Festival J Finnan 0244-43734	Jane Lloyd
25-27	Cleethorpes Folk Festival K Compton 0472-698750	Green Ginger
25-27	Clitheroe Weekend of Traditional Dance. I Lowcock 0282-812842	No workshop
27	Islwyn Folk Festival Festival Office 0495-222173	Not known

JUNE

7 - 9	Wimborne Folk Festival L Wild 0202-623740	No workshop
7 - 9	Folk on the Green (Stony Stratford) B Adams 0908-565576	No workshop
14-16	South Petherton A Bryden 0460-40469	No workshop
14-16	All Folk Around the Wrekin J Johnson 0952-460712	Jackie Hamilton
21-23	Lichfield Folk Festival G Legg 16 School La, Shareshill	Madelaine Hollis
21-23	Beverley Folk Festival C Wade 037781-662	Green Ginger
28-30	Meriden Centre of England Folk Festival P Hoban 021-784-2728	Brenda Gurnham Justine Badrick
28-30	Skinner's Bottom Cornish Folk Festival C House 0209-820441	Truro Dandy Clog
28-July 14	Norwich Folk Festival L Matthews 0603-26295	No workshop
28-30	Whitehaven Folk Festival Box Office 0946-2422	Not known

JULY

5 - 7	White Horse Village Folk Festival B German 0980-630628	?April Morning
5 - 7	Shrewsbury Folk Festival 0743-56975	No workshop
12-14	Redcar Folk Festival 0947-840928	No workshop
19-22	Village Pump Folk Festival J King 0225-332779	No workshop

AUG

2 - 9	Sidmouth Festival Office 03955-5134	Geoff Hughes Gill Macnab
2 - 4	Durham City Folk Festival 0385-65754	Mary Jamieson
2 - 4	Warwick Folk Festival F Dixon 0203-78738	April Morning
9 -11	Dartmoor Folk Festival M Kiely 18 Pikes Rd, Okehampton	Not Known
9 -16	Broadstairs Folk Festival P Porritt 0843-603321	Not known