

- Pennyroyal 1.S.Nunn, 32 Kings Ave, Redhill, Surrey
tel 0737-65608. 2.Tues 7.30 Manor Pk
Infants Sch, Sutton. 3.Cheshire morris &
garland. 4.W,LTH,SSH,SSW,LH,EFL,NDW.
5.Welsh Broom Dancing.
- Plymouth Maids 1.K.Wilson, 5 Brookfield Cl, Plympton,
Plymouth, Devon tel 0752-332291
2.Thurs 7.30 St Mary's Church hall,
Laira, Plymouth. 3.Ladies NW & garland.
4.LH.
- Reading Traditional
Step Dance Group 1.I.Dunmur, Rose Cott, Sulhampstead
Abbotts, Reading, Berks tel 073529-2662
2.Tues 8.00 Watlington Hse, Watlington
St, Reading. 4.W,ND,NDW,SSH,SSJ,SSW,LTH,
LH,EFL,EFL,1A. 5.Stepping in country
dances and reels, Devon Stepping,
collection and research.
- Saddleworth Garland 1.H.Woodcock 40 Shore Hall Bank Rd,
Greenfield, Saddleworth. tel
04577-70200 2.Mon 8.30 Cross Keys,
Uppermill. 3.Garland. 4.SSJ,SSH,SSW.
5.Lessons once a month.
- Sam Sherry classes 1.S.Sherry, 53 Meadow Pk, Galgate,
Lancaster, Lancs 2.Sun Lancaster Guitar
Studio, Thurs Catherine Beckett Club,
Preston. 4.SSH,SSR,SSJ,SSW.
- Sandgate Morris 1.S.Spencer, 18 Roxburgh Pl, Heaton,
Newcastle, Tyne and Wear tel 0632-
652425. 2.Thurs 7.00 St Lukes Church,
Newcastle. 3.NW morris. 4.ND,SSW.
- Sheffield Celebrated
Clog Dancers 1.C.Roscoe, 98 Greystones Rd, Sheffield
W Yorks tel 0742-680035 2.Tues 7.30
Croft Hse Settlement, Garden St,
Sheffield. 4.ND,W,LTH,SSH,SSJ,LH,EFL.
- Stafford Castle Clog 1.A M Moss, 80 Mickleholme Dv, Alrewas,
Burton on Trent, Staffs tel 0283-790088
2.Wed 8.30 Royal Naval Club, Stafford.
4. W,ND,LTH,LH,SSW,NDW
- Sun Oak 1.K.Nightingale, Meadow Vw, 3 Byfleets
La, Warnham, W Sussex tel 0403-66086
2.Mon 8.00 Queen's Head, Horsham. 4.W,
ND,NDW,LH,LTH,SSW,EFL.
- Sweet Coppin 1.A.Higgs, Blackdown Cott, Heathcross,
Whiteston, Exeter, Devon tel 06476-305
2.Mon 8.00 Trinity Church Hall, Taunton.
3.Ritual and garland dancing. 4.W,ND,LTH
SSH,SSW,LH. 5.Welsh Broom and reels
- Throstles Nest 1.A.Lee, Leafield, Crawhall, Brampton,
Cumbria . tel 06977-2439 2.Wed
8.00 St Cuthberts Sch, Wigton. 3.NW
morris. 4.W,ND.
- Wessex Woods 1.N.White, 10 Old Wareham Rd, Parkstone,
Poole, Dorset 2.Tues 8.00 Pembroke
Arms, Bournemouth. 3. Garland Dancing.
4.W,LH,SSJ,EFL.
- Westmorland Step &
Garland Dancers 1.M.Neve, 17 Burntbarrow, Storth,
nr Milnthorpe, Cumbria tel 0524-761982
2.Mon 8.00 Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal.
3.Ladies NW Morris. 4.W.

NSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINS
EPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEP
NSTEPINSTE INSTEP NSTEPINSTE
PINSTEPINST PINSTEPINST
STEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINST
EPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEP
NSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINSTEPINS

INSTEP NO 7 Jan 1983

Editor C.Metherell

Address for all correspondence:

3 Fetcham Ct
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2UL

tel 863992

Copy date for next issue 1st March 1983.

EDITORIAL

It seems that my somewhat provocative comments regarding competitive dancing are at last bearing fruit. I wouldn't say that my doormat has been covered with mail on this subject but I have for once received more letters than I can print, including one from someone who has actually taken part in one of the competitions in question. Following my interview with Don Watson in the last issue I hope to be able to publish a similar article featuring the organiser of the Lancashire and Cheshire Championships, Alan Bell, in a later issue.

Once again we present an updated list of clog groups and teams. There have been a considerable number of changes and even some new groups which have come into being in the last year. Sadly one or two groups are no more, but I get the impression that the number of members in each group is on the increase. To me this is an excellent trend. The best way to learn to dance is from an experienced dancer. So it is much better to join an existing group if possible and pick their brains than start a new, and possibly very inexperienced group of your own.

I recently had the pleasure of seeing the latest results of the Reading group's filming activities, their first film of Mrs Pat Tracey, and I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone interested in dancing, whether a confirmed clog addict or not. I will say no more at this point as I hope to be able to publish a full review in the next issue, except to extend my personal thanks to all those who contributed towards the cost of the enterprise and to assure them that their generosity has made possible the production of what must be the best film of traditional dancing produced to date.

READING DAY OF DANCE 1982 - A REVIEW

Reading Traditional Step Dance Group are to be congratulated on once again organising an excellent day of dance. For those of you who didn't go this year, book early for next year as places are limited. From my privileged position (I was able to drop into all the work_hops), I was able to obtain an overview of the event which should be of interest to those attending the day and the organisers alike.

There were seven separate workshops, each dealing with a different type of clog or step dancing. Complete beginners either went to Mike Cherry's (dotted hornpipe) or to John Walford's (Lakeland) classes. These instructors exhibit a completely different approach to teaching. Mike Cherry was one of the (unfortunate) people who taught me to dance in the early 1970's and for the beginner has the ability to be clear and concise in his movements and instructions - the accent here was on technique, as I felt it should be. John on the other hand taught a lot of steps (9 I think), but whether this was a good idea for the beginner I rather doubt. There is an unfortunate tendency at the beginners' stage to "collect" scores of steps, none of which can be performed with any effectiveness, instead of concentrating on a few steps and working them up to a good standard. This is particularly true of Lakeland steps which are very popular and frequently performed but all too often in an appalling style bearing little resemblance to anything ever done traditionally. Paula Earwaker's (Lakeland) class was a much better prospect from a technique point of view, but I must say that every time I visited the class the dancers were practising to a dotted rather than an undotted rhythm. The flat rhythm of the Lakeland style is one of it's most endearing characteristics and one which many dancers, especially the less experienced, find difficult. It should be stressed at every available opportunity. In general however I was impressed. Dot Mulliner taught Sam Bell's waltz routine, and what I saw of the class was excellent.

Jennifer Millest was giving an evangelical workshop on "Reels and Country Dances with Stepping". I felt this to be an excellent idea but perhaps the accent should have been on the steps and not on the dance forms themselves in which the steps were traditionally found. This may be an unfair criticism as it was difficult to build up a picture of this type of workshop from a couple of short visits.

Ian Dunmur was teaching the Clog Hornpipe to an enormous class. Some of the steps are quite tricky and to get the feel and style of the dance across really does require individual attention at some points and this is not possible with 30+ in the class. Once again the accent seemed to be on getting the steps across rather than making it look like a dance. Sam Bell was teaching his own hornpipe routine. I don't think you can beat having it from the horse's mouth (sorry Sammy), but there were those who grumbled because they preferred their steps in pre-digested form. All I can say is - tough luck - one day you'll wish you'd paid more attention to an all too rare opportunity to be taught by a traditional dancer.

I've spent a long time discussing the classes because these were the *raison d'être* behind the whole day and also because the rest of it was so excellently organised. Joan Flett's lecture was of considerable interest and it was a pity that more people did not take the trouble to attend and also that it had to be shortened to fit into the available time. Two lots of guest performances was perhaps a little excessive, although I'm not sure one can see too much of either Pat Tracey or Sam Sherry. The performances by the instructors of the steps they were teaching was an excellent idea (but why no demonstration of Lakeland by John Walford or Paula Earwaker?). The food was great, I just don't know how they manage it, the films provided by Barry Callaghan were extremely illuminating, and the dance in the evening with Roy Dommett and the Rakes energetic. To sum up, an excellent day of clog instruction. The accent was on the beginner and the intermediate dancer. Despite the publicity blurb there was nothing advanced about any of the workshops except for that taught by Ian Dunmur. I believe this is intentional but it might be made clearer in the brochure. Similarly the workshops concentrated on getting the steps over, rather than the technique and feel of the dance. If this was intentional I feel it may be an error, at any level of the dance. If it happened by default then this aspect needs careful consideration.

These minor criticisms pale into insignificance when compared to the overall excellence of the day. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone but the most advanced dancer.

Cobblers & w/ Weekend

7th - 8th May 1983

SATURDAY 7th May - Noon to 6pm + Ceilidh (7.30 - Midnight)

SUNDAY 8th May - 9.30am to 1pm at Brynglas House, Newport, Gwent.

SESSIONS: Welsh Clog - Huw Williams

Advanced Clog - Sam Sherry

Beginners and Intermediate Clog - Wessex Woods

Rapper Sword - Dave Hislop

Musicians Swap Shop (FREE)

+ CRÉCHE, Stalls, Films, Clog Making



Accommodation FREE. Camping (tents, campers, caravans) at Brynglas House (Limited space though)

Costs. Sessions + Ceilidh £5. Session only £4. Ceilidh only £1-50

s.a.e. for full details and tickets from Dave Stone, 170, Oaksford, Coed Eva, Cwmbran, Gwent. NP44 6UQ before 31st March.

OLD FATHER ~ ABRAHAM ~

folklore and traditional life SPECIALIST BOOKSELLERS

also
**RECORDS
INSTRUMENTS
CLOGS
CANALWARE**

**12 MARKET STREET
HATHERLEIGH DEVON
tel 413**

and at good festivals

LETTERS

52 James Lane
London E10

I hope this letter may enlighten you as to some of the mysterious goings on you may soon get to hear about down in our part of the country.

The Bantams are taking a big step in presenting "Clog in the Metropolis" which we aim to make a pleasant affair where clog dancers can enjoy their hobby at all levels. We hope it will complement the Reading and Newcastle annual "occasions" and being held in April is neither intended to compete with nor rebel against either. At the same time we don't intend to have a straight copy. Full details are not yet available because so much has got to be finalised, but the following should reflect a true impression of our intentions.

A full day including 4 instructional sessions with 4 options of classes and some at 2 levels, an evening dance, with spots, items and diversions of specific interest to clog and step dancers, a number of craft stalls, good food etc.

One of the diversions will be the East London Open Clog Championship and perhaps this needs a little explanation.

The "Rules" are enclosed for your information (see below Ed.) and may appear rather "silly" on first reading but behind it there is a serious point. While we are in accord with the ethos of the strict "classical" preservation endemic in the competition of the North of England and simultaneously very sympathetic with the preservation of identified steps for dances, noted steps of noted dancers and the benefits of recreational study of recognised and particular styles; we feel that another preservation is not taking place.

That is: where a dancer has studied under a teacher or a series of teachers with enough discipline to have acquired some ability, we feel that there is little to encourage invention and personalisation. We feel it unlikely that our dancing ancestors would have abandoned the sound principles they were taught but equally unlikely that they would, having "graduated" or been left to their own resources, would have ignored the urge to utilise their skills to dance for their own pleasure or for their family or workmates in a way which suited them and developed as their own style, picking tunes and even rhythms that interested or entertained them; (heelbeats etc.). We are not trying to divert the dedicated competition dancers nor the anti-competitive-lobby from their respective philosophies; but feel that there is a large and competent clog dance community who do not fit either camp and who might well find a new dimension to the pleasure their dancing can give them.

Rule 7 is therefore a telling line.

We are hoping to preserve creativity and personalisation. The very nature of our serious point however should protect the event from getting bogged down. We hope for a lively, light hearted and friendly gathering where anybody's genuine efforts can be appreciated. It would be great to see skillful clog schottisches or polka rhythm solo step dances but perhaps that's a lot to expect over night; but we know that reels, jigs and particularly waltzes are being danced regularly. We hope to have respected external teachers at the instructional sessions as well as from

our own ranks.

We have a qualified chef for grub dept.

Yours

Pete James pp.Bantams

Rules.

Entry fee 25p - Dumb Animals Free.

1. Competitors must dance with clogs on (their feet.)
2. Competitors may dance to any rhythm.
3. Competitors dancing to Hornpipes will be disqualified.
4. Competitors may enter once only unless they wish to enter twice.
5. Order of dancing by lottery.
6. There will be no judges as this puts pressure on competitors. There will be a referee.
7. The winner will be the dancer who in the subjective opinion of the referee and his associates presents a step dance nearest in "flavour" to:

WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A PARTY PIECE OF A WORKING MAN OR WOMAN OF 100 YEARS AGO.

8. All other competitors (who are not disqualified under rules 1, 2 or 3) become Runners Up.

Prizes.

1st Prize. A handsome one-pound note + "Best Party Piece" Cert.

Runners Up. A one-pound note each, similar to 1st Prize but grubbier.

Special Prizes. The referee has the authority to award additional mementoes.

59-61 New Rd
Middlestown
Wakefield

I have to disagree with some of your comments in the last issue of Instep concerning the Clog Championships held at Durham and Fylde. I must admit that I wasn't at Durham this year, but I have been to the competitions in previous years. As a spectator I have always enjoyed these championships, and this is mainly due to the importance placed on the event. The Town Hall is an ideal venue, and there are usually stewards on hand to prevent people wandering in and out during the dancing. Other potential disruptions such as photographers using flash equipment are also discouraged. The judges independently award points on separate disciplines and this seems to me to be a fair system.

At Fylde the whole event has a much more casual approach - in my opinion too casual. After all a competition by its very nature must generate some tension. This year's event was held in a bar, and my view of the stage was continually interrupted by people wandering across to buy drinks. Many of these people were obviously not interested in the dancing. At one point during the children's competition I was amazed to see one man trying to set up some sound equipment near the stage while the dance was in progress. This must have proved a distraction for both the competitor and the judges. To correct one of your comments concerning the judging, there was in fact a change of personnel for the children's competition as one judge failed to turn up until 25 minutes after the event was due to start. I did enjoy the variety of the dancing displayed at Fylde but feel that the interest which this event generates warrants a higher standard of presentation.

One final comment concerning the Westmorland Competition held at the Kendal Folk Festival. This was a total disappointment to me. Very few competitors entered - in fact they appeared for the most part several members of the local team Westmorland Packet, plus one other competitor. There was a draw for the entrants dancing order, but this was not adhered to. Apart from the young girl who was not a local, the other competitors performed identical steps, but with little enthusiasm. The judges were seemingly unable to make independent decisions and were apparently seeking re-assurance from each other on their verdict. In fact the whole event was summed up by one of the judges who turned to us at the end and said, "Do you think we chose the right person?"

L M Goodfellow

6 Somerton Ct
Newcastle

I read with interest and alarm your reported interview with Don Watson in Instep No 6 in which he commented on the "Northumberland style".

"Competition dancing was the only true traditional expression of clog dancing". Has he ever watched a good performing clog dancer grab an audience by the throat demanding their attention and working them up with an exciting, lively exhibition of crisp clog dancing? Clog dancing has been and I hope always will be a performing art. The champions of the past were entertainers dancing for audiences. Its roots I believe are in the houses, clubs and bars of working people where a person with a "canny pair of feet" showed his dance skills and "showmanship". Competition may have forced the evolution of more complex steps and ordered the style, but in its traditional form it was first and foremost entertainment. If the tradition ever lost the essential dialogue between performer and audience it would lose a vital part of its character as a dance; movement without expression or personality becoming merely a gymnastic exercise.

"Dancing for entertainment purposes was apt to deviate from a theoretical traditional norm and competition dancing brought things back into line."

I don't know what the theoretical traditional norm is. I hope one day someone will define it! Reading between the lines I suspect that it would be a style of dancing which fitted closely the criteria used for judging the Northern Counties Championships, around the headings time, beats, execution and carriage. These criteria whilst dealing with the technical aspects of stepping take little account of the "showmanship" quality of performance.

If the "theoretical traditional norm" continues to be closely allied to a style of dancing that will meet current judging criteria then Don is right; entertainment dancing will tend to deviate. Maybe this is the evolution of tradition? For my own part I will continue to deviate a tiny bit and dance traditionally for the entertainment of audiences.

Peter Brown
Northern Counties Novices
Champion 1975

CLOG DANCE TEAMS

This issue we publish once again what we hope is a fairly complete list of active teams and groups. There have been many changes since we published our previous list a year ago, and several new groups have come into being. If we've missed out your group let us know and we'll include you in a later issue. Each entry is coded as follows :

1. Name and address of contact.
2. Day, time and place of meetings.
3. Other interests of group apart from clog dancing.
4. Types of dance performed:

ND Northumberland/Durham	W Lakeland (inc reels)
NDW Northumberland/Durham waltz	SSH Sam Sherry Hornpipe
LTH Lancashire Toe and Heel	SSW Sam Sherry Waltz.
EFH E.Fife Clog Hornpipe.	SSJ Sam Sherry Jig.
EFL E.Fife Liverpool Hornpipe.	SSR Sam Sherry Reel.
LH Lancashire Hornpipe.	1A First of August.

5. Other dances and comments.

Addison Rapper and Clog 1.G.Uthank, 14 Ivy Ave, Ryton, Tyne and Wear tel Ryton 2760. 2. Fri. 8.00. United Reform Church, Ryton. 3. Rapper. 4. ND.

Bradford Clog 1.H.Whiteley 17 South Parade, Pudsey, W.Yorks tel 0532-575601. 2. Mon. 8.00 Bradford Univ. 4. W,NDW,ND,LH

Charnwood Clog 1.L.M.Goodfellow, 26 Wanlip La, Birstall Leics tel 0533-676597. 2.Mon 8.15 Rawlins Comm Coll,Quorn, Loughboro' 4.W,ND,LH,LTH,SSH,SSW,SSJ,EFH,EFL,1A

Chelmsford Morris 1.M.Harris, 8 Prince of Wales Rd, Great Totham, Essex tel 0621-891225. 2.Tue/Wed 8.00 Writtle Christian Centre. 3.N.W. & Garland Dancing. 4.W,ND,LTH,SSW EFH. 5. Meet alt tues/wed.

Chestnut Cloggies 1.H.Cross, 2 Palmer's Wy, Hutton, nr Weston-super-Mare, Avon tel 0934-812993 4. LH,W

Claygate Clog Dancers 1.F.Jenkins, 389 Kingston Rd, Ewell, Surrey 2.Alt Tues, Foley Arms, Claygate, Surrey. 4.W,ND,LTH,LH 5. Dances involving stepping.

Cleveland Clog 1.V.Alsop, 43 Bentinck Rd, Stockton, Cleveland tel 0642-584822.2.Irregular. 4.ND,NDW,W,LTH,SSH,SSW,SSJ,EFL.

Clogs & Co. 1.G.Porter, 31 Victoria St, Wolverton, Milton Keynes tel 0908-312330. 4.W,LH,LTH. 5.Displays only.

Cobbler's Awl 1.C.Stone, 170 Oaksford, Coed Eva, Cwmbran, Gwent tel 06333-62146. 2. Mon 7.45 Brynglas Hse, Newport. 4.W,ND,LTH, LH,SSW. 5. Welsh broom dance and reels.

Conwy Morris Men 1.B.Gregson,Whinacres, Conwy, Gwynedd tel 049263-2427. 3. Morris. 4.Welsh broom.

Corn Dollies 1.C O'Rourke, 20 Charlton Rd, Wantage, Oxon tel 02357-65884. 2.Mon 8.00, Lain's Barn, Wantage. 4.W,ND,NDW,SSH,SSW SSJ,EFH,1A. 5. Dances involving stepping.

Cotswold Cloggers 1.S.Venn, 90 Deans Wy, Kings Hull, Gloucs tel Gloucs 23311.

Doglogerum 1.R.Hammant 21 Westfield Cl,Bromyard, Herefs tel 08852-3624. 2.Sun 2.30 Putley Vill Hall, nr Ledbury. 4.LH,NDW,EFH,ND,W

Dandy Clog Dance Club

Glewn Longsword

Green Ginger

Greenwood

Harrow F.D.C.

Hoddesden Crownsmen

S Illingworth

Island Cloggies

Jenny Geddes

Keebles Queen Clog Team

Kesteven Morris

Lancashire Wallopers

Locksmiths Sword

Lymington Clog

Newcastle Cloggies

1.John the Fish, 2 The Bungalows, Tarrantean La, Perranwell Sta, Truro, Cornwall tel 0872-863825. 2. Tues 8.00 Hightown Church Hall, Truro. 4.W,ND,LH LTH,SSH,SSW,SSJ.

1.John Boucher, 4 Brookway Dv, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucs tel 0242-581300. 2. Sun 10.15 Leckhampton Scout Hut, Cheltenham. 3.Longsword and country. 4.LH

1.Sue Jenkinson, 9 St Mary's Dv, Hedon, North Humberside tel 0482-896217.

2.Thurs. 8.00 Ensleigh Convent, Hull. 3.Garland dancing. 4.W,ND,SSW,LH,LTH,NDW

1.M.Paling 14 Kicky Gdns, Arnold, Notts tel 0332-679584.

1.C.Wilson, Glendale, The Chase, Pinner, Middx 2.Fri fortnightly Harrow Arts 4.W,SSW

1.M.Hirst, 27 Currie St, Hertford tel 0992-50040. 2.Sun 10.30 Crown pub, Stanstead Abbots. 3.Rapper. 4.W,ND,SSW, LTH,LH.

1.S.Illingworth, 59-61 New Rd, Middlestown, Wakefield, Yorks tel 0924-276838. 2.Mon 8.30 The Royal, Cleckheaton. 4.ND

1.J.Viney, 19 Barton Rd, Newport, I.O.W. 2.Mon 8.00 Corn Exchange, Newport.

4.W,ND,SSH,SSW,EFH. 5.Reels involving stepping.

1.A.Nuttall, 60 Comiston Ave, Edinburgh tel 031-447-4117. 2.Old St Pauls Church hall, Jeffrey St. 3. NW Morris. 4.W,SSH, SSW

1.S.Tyas, 13 St James Cl, Wath on Dearne, Yorks tel 0709-877783. 2. Fri 8.00. Red Lion, Wath. 4.LH,W,ND,NDW.

1.M.Fletcher, Amrulee, Holme Rd, Kirton Holme, Boston, Lincs tel 0205-64601 ex22 2.Tues 8.00 Nags Head, Sleaford. 3.Morris. 4.W,ND,NDW,LTH,SSW,EFL.

1.M.Hollis, 21 Parkgate Dv, Leyland, Preston, Lancs tel 07744-22079

5. Performance team specialising in Lancashire dances. SSW,SSJ,SSR.

1.J.Aubrey, 18 College Rd, Isleworth, Middx tel 01-560-8564. 2.Wed 8.00 Brook Green Hotel, Shepherd's Bush. 3.Mixed Sword. 4.SSH,LH

1.C.Couchman, Tiptoe Lodge, Middle Rd, Lymington, Hants tel 0590-682881. 2.Irreg. 4.W,LTH,LH

1.E.Wilson, 7 Dodsworth North, Greenside Tyne & Wear tel Ryton 4633 2.Thurs 7.30 Albion Row Community Centre, Byker, Newcastle. 4.W,SSR,SSW,SSJ,ND,NDW,EFH, EFL,1A. 5. Social Dances involving stepping, collection and research.