

EVESHAM MORRIS

1. MSS and Correspondance by Jack Hargreaves

Music by George Collins collected by Jack Hargreaves

THE EVESHAM MORRIS DANCE

Morris dance for ten

Hit sticks

Right hop left hop 8 x (of each)

Hit sticks

Cross Over

Right hop left hop 2 x

Hit sticks

Right hop left hop 2 x

Transfer stick to left hand

Take handkerchief in right

Dance round waving handkerchief from wrist

At the end transfer handkerchief to left hand and stick to right

Hit sticks

Costume - ordinary clothes, black faces & coloured paper on legs except clown with bladder. 2 collectors & musician (in box hat) playing concertina. The Morris Dance tune was "made up" by Mr George Collins 44 Church St, Evesham (the musician) & was collected by Jack H. on 30.5.40 & following days. The dance round was done singing to the tune Fanny Frail (or Frale)

"Farewell, Farewell

Farewell my Fanny Frail

For I met my little Sally

at the corner of the alley

With my rump a dump a doodle dum a day."

The dance was danced in the streets of Evesham from about 1987 to 1895.

BONNETS SO BLUE

Morris dance for 10

Right hop, left hop 4 x of each waving handks. once to each foot motion 3 x then 2 x down from the wrists finishing up with 2 circular motions.

Cross over right hop, left hop 2x

Cross back

Dance round (3 x) to handkerchief motion.

2. Extract from Evesham Standard 4.5.40

Dick Johns (76), George Collins & Jim Thould survivors of Bengeworth mummers & Morris dancers used to go to Bidford, Sedgberrow & Hinton.

Dick Johns died 1940, George Collins in 1944 aged 84.

3. Contact with Hargreaves

Interview - sticks short, held at end and decorated. Step - hopping, but feet not kicked forward, and knee well raised.

Letter (in reply to sending him Campden notations) - waves - like Brackley at low chest level. Circles - at head level like Headington. Cross Over track like Brackley show-out

Visit to OUMM - Stick tapping tips, right to left, first 3 beats of bar.

Hopsteps. 2 bars of stepping on spot at end of cross over and before rounds. Rounds counter clockwise.

Evesham comment.

- (a) Waves like Brackley - low chest level
Circles at head level normal twist direction.
- (b) Cross over track is like Brackley Show-out or Chipping Campden.
Do not know which shoulder pass. In stick dance it is only half a cross over - ie 4 bars across & turn to face then approach and step on spot (on other side). Do not know direction of turn either. In handkerchief dance it is across and back, 4 bars each half, in one continuous movement. Do not know if same shoulder each time but difficult to make it continuous movement if not. More of a 8 bar $\frac{1}{2}$ a whole gip?

(c) sticks short, held at end and decorated.

Step on spot facing front for 2 bars while changing hands of stick and handk before moving off into rounds.

(d) The mss suggested that figures are done in 4 or 2 bars when it is quite obvious 8 or 4 bars is intended. So I have stretched the mss to fit the tune etc.

(e) c.c.l.

(f) Jack Hargreaves was alive in National Folk Week when I last saw him. He is in a rest home voluntarily and his odd behaviour makes it difficult to get on with him. He collected the Evesham morris from Dick Johns (died 1940) and Jim Thould, dancers and George Collins (died 1944 aged 84) the musician. On 30.5.40 and following days as a result of a photograph of the Bengeworth Mummers and Morris Dancers appearing in the Evesham Standard of 4.5.40. Bengeworth is a part of Evesham - rather like the Bampton morris at one time belonging to Weald.
I understand from the House librarian of that time, the OUMM about 12 years ago and him that his dances material can be published as long as he is given credit. He tried to persuade Ralph Vaughan Williams to arrange the music!

The dances were done from about 1875 to 1895 in Evesham and out to Bidford, Sedgeberrow and Hinton. George Gollins lived at 44 Church St. Evesham and is the principal source for all the material.

Costume; ordinary clothes, black faces & coloured paper on legs, except for proper clown. 2 collectors, musician wore a box hat & played concertina.

The step for both dances was a hopstep described "right hop left hop 8x" knee raised but foot not kicked forward. Note starting foot implied is the right.

Talking to Hargreaves was not very helpful but I obtained some information above that in the letter he wrote to the EFDSS by sending him the notation of the Campden dances. He had just seen them dance. Hargreaves has some link with Oxford because one night he came to an OUMM practice and tried to teach the dances, despite them being so simple, he managed to cover pages with explanations and drawings and left most men very confused, but with access to his original letter, with their help, I was able to extract (afterwards) a little more of his intent.

part of handbook not used.

E V E S H A M

(Wores.)

Sources RD from MSS of J.Hargreaves; Jour EFDSS Dec.1963 (E.C.Cawte).

Characteristics of the tradition

Allied with Brimfield and Bromsberrow Heath, etc. (q.v.). 10 dancers, who were mummers also.

The Dances recorded are 2, one stick and one hkf.

The Figures. DP, CO and Rounds

The Steps. 4-step only

The Arm-movements. "Wave for 6 bars - once to each hopstep then 2 times down from the wrist, finishing up with 2 circular motions". (The Handkerchief Dance only)

THE EVESHAM STICK DANCE (Hkf in lt hand, stick in rt)

Sequence - DF;DP;DF;CO;DF;Rounds;DF (Rep ad lib from DP onwards)

DP - (B music)

CO - (B music) Track as in Headington. 6 bars to cross and turn, 2 dancing facing

Rounds - (C music) Transfer stick to lt hand and hkf to rt, and face round to rt. Sticks held up in middle. Dance round in circle c.cl to places, waving hkf's from wrists, singing Fanny Frail. At end, change hands again

DF - Stick-tapping.(A music). Partners strike tips from rt to lt on first three beats of every bar, stepping throughout.

THE EVESHAM HANDKERCHIEF DANCE

Sequence - DP;CO;WhR(Rep ad lib)

DP - (A music)

(Evesham)

CO - (B music) Cross, turn and face partner, then home again, passing rt shoulders each time (as in Headington), all in 8 bars

WhR - (C music) Clockwise