

GREAT WISHFORD FAGGOT DANCE

Issue 2

Performed each Oak Apple Day (May 29th) at Great Wishford (formerly Wishford Magna) 6 miles west of Salisbury Wilts.

In the processions the four women walk in a line across with the melodian player, each carrying a Faggot - a small bundle of sticks - on their head pointing fore and aft, horizontal, held by the right hand. The left hand holds a small oak branch.

Dance: for four women standing at the corners of a large square. No apparent starting foot rule observed. In the square stand two facing two, so can consider one has a partner.

Figure 1

The boughs are laid in the centre. The figure is done with the faggot on the head, held by the right hand except where specifically indicated, as some changes of hand are necessary. Hold skirt in left hand at side.

Tune: Blue Bell Polka played rather slow.

Step: a 1 2 3 hop done at practically walking pace.

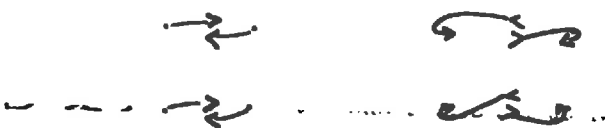
O2YS: stand in a square. Honour by making a bow to partner and to opposite on 2 chords

1. Cross over, passing right shoulders and turn right to face back. Repeat to place and go round again. Each crossing takes 6 bars - 24 in all.

2. Top and bottom pairs meet, put inside arms around each other, changing hands on Faggot if necessary, in 4 bars. They then dance as pairs right round the boughs clockwise in a flat ellipse rather than a circle, in 8 bars. Release partner and fall back to place in 4 bars. 16 bars in all.



3. The same pairs turn with a forearm grip by the right, turn in and back with the left. 4 bars to meet, 4 bars each way in the turns, getting round 2 complete turns plus and take 4 bars to get out to place. 16 bars in all.



Note turns seem to be mostly inwards.

4. All 4 do a right and left hand star, 4 bars to go in, 8 bars round each way, turning in at half way, and 4 bars out. In the last 2 bars all do two quick cleft spins on the spot as the music speeds up and end with a bow to partner & to opposite. 24 bars in all. Right hand on Faggot at end.

Figure 2

The Faggots are piled vertically in the centre of the set & the boughs picked up. They are carried vertically in the right hand and the skirt is held in the left hand.

Tune: Oyster Girl played rather slow

Step: a stephop kicking the free foot across but only one to a bar.

O2YS: bow to opposite and then to partner.

1. All 8 stephops to centre of set and 8 stephops back to place. Repeat. 32 bars in all.

2. First corner cross, passing right shoulders and turning clockwise to face back, 12 bars, then step on spot while second corner crosses ditto. First corner back, 2nd corner back, 48 bars in all.

3. Star (hands across) - 8 hops in, 8 hops round in a right hand star, turn in and 8 hops back in a left hand star and 8 hops out to place, turning anticlock near the start of going back so that more than half of it is done moving backwards. When going in the right hand is held out in front ready for the star, the bough being swapped to the other hand on the first beat.

4. Ring - circle to left and back to the right. 8 hops in, circle left for 8 hops going round about half way. In the circle progress on the kick in the direction going and no progress on the kick the other way. Also shake joined hands up and down during the stepping. Return circling to right and retire to place and doing two quick turns on spot in place in the last 2 bars.

End dance by bowing to opposite and to partner.