

HOP PICKERS BROOM DANCE

Source: member of Keith Leech's Sussex morris side had seen this done 20 years before (c.1964) by his family when they went hop picking at the Guinness hop fields at Bodiam. When the weather was wet the dance was performed using broken hop poles and somebody whistling the tune. This is copied from Morris Federation Research Group Newsletter 6 for June 1984.

Tunes : The Quaker, The Devil (Among the Tailors?), The Sussex Farmer.

Set : One dancer or three dancers.

Chorus: Passing the broom round your legs in a figure of 8 (ie the standard thing) with the bottom on the floor, then suddenly reversing the movement.

Figures:

1. Three steps on one side of the broom, three on the broom, and three on the other side of the broom, all the way up the broom, then turn and come back down the broom.
2. "Swing step" up the broom, then come backwards down the broom with the same step - this backward step looks like the 'Hullichan Jig'.
3. If 3 dancers - link elbows and go round in a circle.

Ending:

At the end of the dance, knock the broom handle three times on the floor, and at the end (straight after the third time) lift it straight up in the air.

Step : No fancy stepping, more of a vigorous stamp.

Assume Swing step is as Fools Jig Bampton and Hurligan step is the backstep in Community Dance Manual 3