

Upton upon Severn

Stick dance

Origin: Geoff Hughes (Chingford Morris Men). Adapted from his interpretation of a dance by Mendip Morris c.1962.

6 dancers in 2 lines of 3.

Music: Upton.

Formula:

Face across set. Once to yourself (8 bars)

Rounds

----- Chorus: tips and butts

Hey left

----- Chorus: quarter staves (right hand up first clash)

Hey right

----- Chorus: swords

Cross and turn

----- Chorus: tips and butts

Hey on the side

----- Chorus: quarter staves (right hand up first clash)

Rounds

----- Chorus: final swords

Finish: Dance finishes by facing up, staying out, and holding stick high. Walk off up set in pairs.

Stepping: Right foot tradition. Double steps. R-L-R-hop, L-R-L-hop

Stick position : For travelling. In figures, hold at one end, pointing down.

In the clockwise circles of the chorus, hold at centre, stick is vertical.

All figures and choruses finish with dancers in two lines about one metre further out than the start position. Spring forward into the set, stepping on left foot, and finishing with with two stamps (right then left).

Figures

Rounds

Once to yourself: 8 bar introduction, then two stamps (right then left) at the end of the once to yourself music. Hop left.

Clash forehead on the 1st step with opposite.

2 DS backwards in line.

5 DS clockwise round circle to return to two lines of 3. Sticks arch overhead and into centre, where they point downward into centre of set. After 5DS, spring forward into set with one step on left foot followed by two stamps (right then left).

Hey left:

Clash on the 1st step with opposite

Middles fall back 1 DS and then move diagonally to their left to start a hey with end pair, passing right shoulder with person diagonally to their left.

Ends fall back 2 DS and join in the heys with their respective middle.

Finish as usual, with two stamps into set.

Hey right:

As above, but middles go to their right.

Cross and turn:

Clash on the 1st step with opposite

1 DS back, 1 DS cross set quickly passing right shoulders with opposite

1 DS to turn to the left, 1 DS to pause

1 DS cross quickly, clashing with two hands on stick as you pass your opposite, 1DS to pause

1DS to turn to the left staying in two lines wider than set facing across.

Spring forward into set with one step on left foot followed by two stamps (right then left). Note: the turn is on DS3 both times.

Hey on the sides: Clash on the 1st step with opposite
All 2 DS dance backwards and outwards and face up (2nd and 3rd couple) and down (top couple) the lines.
5 DS to hey in these lines on the side – quickly to get back to place. Middles start the hey dancing up the middle of the set, casting out into mirror image hey. End in two lines wider than set facing across. Spring forward into set with two stamps (right then left).

Choruses

- Tips & butts: Stick held in right hand vertically at centre. Clash forehand tip then backhand butt. 8 clashes with opposite, then a 9th clash forehand as you dance the first of three 3 DS turning clockwise on a small triangular path to right. End in two lines wider than set facing across. Spring forward into set with two stamps (right then left). REPEAT sequence.
- Quarter staves: Stick held horizontally at ends, grip with knuckles over top of stick. Stick rotates alternately 45 degrees from horizontal, starting with right hand moving up. Clash with middle of opposite's stick. 8 clashes with opposite, then a 9th clash forehand with opposite (stick held at end in RH) as you dance the first of the three 3 DS turning clockwise (as above) REPEAT sequence. After hey on the side, during the repeat of quarter staves chorus, clash with vigour and shouting, but still keep in time with music.
- Swords: Stick held close to one end in right hand. 8 clashes with opposite alternating high forehand and low backhand, facing up and down set when sticking, then a 9th clash forehand with opposite as you dance the first of the three 3 DS turning clockwise (as above) REPEAT sequence.
- Final Swords: As normal swords, but on 2nd time through sticking use 2 hands for swords, facing across set. Clash with vigour and shouting, but keep in time with music. Dance finishes by facing up, staying out, and holding stick high. Walk off up set in pairs.